1

PARASYTE

HITOSHI
IWAAKI

PARASYTE

1

HITOSHI IWAAKI

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY ANDREW CUNNINGHAM
LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

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Parasyte volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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CONTENTS

HONORIFICS EXPLAINED | 0

PARASYTE, VOLUME 1 | 1

TRANSLATION NOTES | 273

JAPANESE COVERS | 279

HONORIFICS EXPLAINED

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei" or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

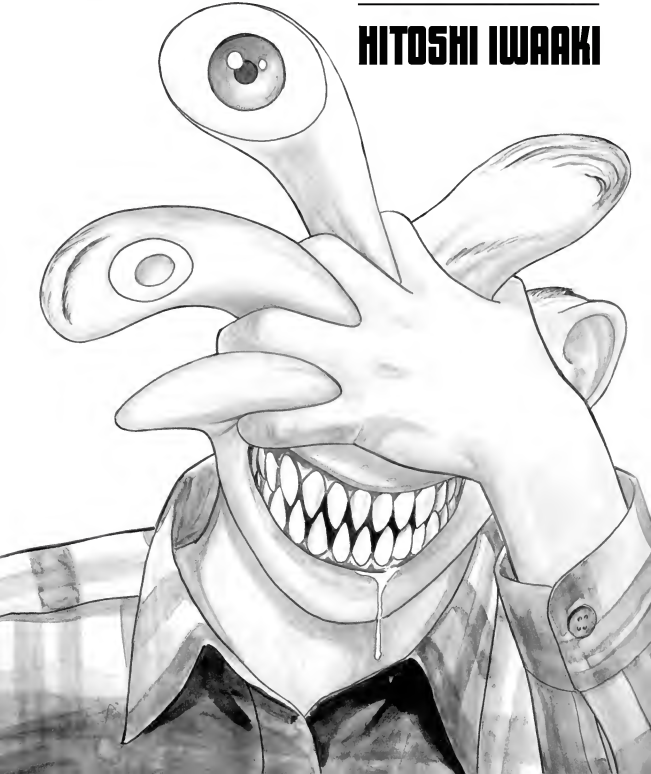
-san:	This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
-sama:	This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
-dono:	This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is even a higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.
-kun:	This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan:	This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.
Bozu:	This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms “kid” and “squirt.”
Sempai/Senpai:	This title suggests that the addressee is one’s senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as “sempai.” It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.
Kohai:	This is the opposite of “sempai,” and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.
Sensei:	Literally meaning “one who has come before,” this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.
-[blank]:	This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one’s name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn’t been earned, it can be very insulting.

PARASYTE

1

HITOSHI IWAAKI



岩明均

寄生獣 1

HITOSHI IWAAKI 完全版

KODANSHA AFTERNOON KCDX

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: INVASION 3

CHAPTER 2: WILD ANIMAL 43

CHAPTER 3: CONTACT 79

CHAPTER 4: KILLER'S AURA 117

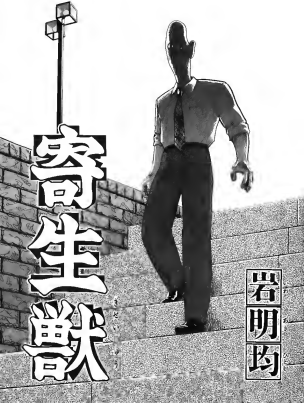
CHAPTER 5: STUDYHOLIC 143

CHAPTER 6: TAMIYA RYŌKO 167

CHAPTER 7: ATTACK 191

CHAPTER 8: SPECIES 221

CHAPTER 9: MOTHER 245



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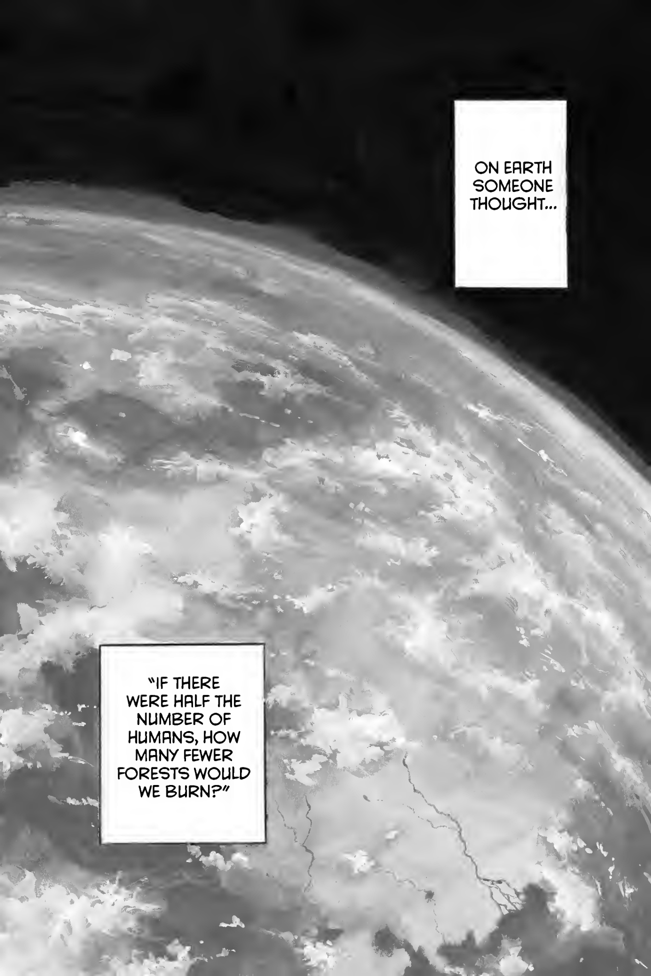
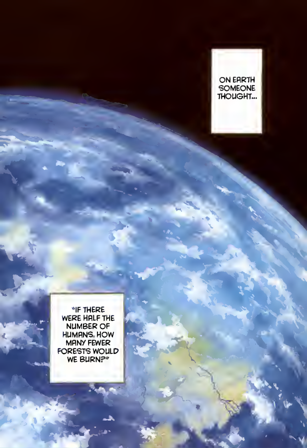
CHAPTER 1: INVASION

CHAPTER 1: INVASION


ON EARTH SOMEONE THOUGHT...
"IF THERE WERE HALF THE NUMBER OF HUMANS, HOW MANY FEWER FORESTS WOULD WE BURN?"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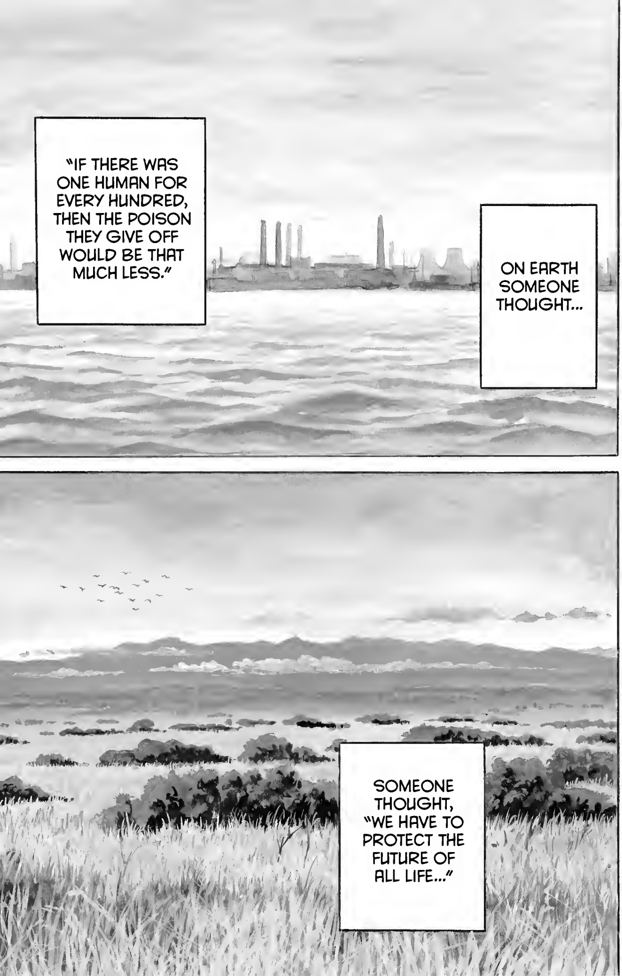
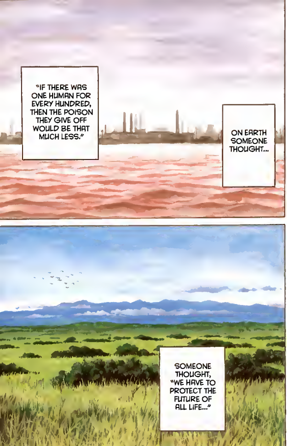

ON EARTH SOMEONE THOUGHT...
"IF THERE WAS ONE HUMAN FOR EVERY HUNDRED, THEN THE POISON THEY GIVE OFF WOULD BE THAT MUCH LESS."
SOMEONE THOUGHT, "WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE FUTURE OF ALL LIFE..."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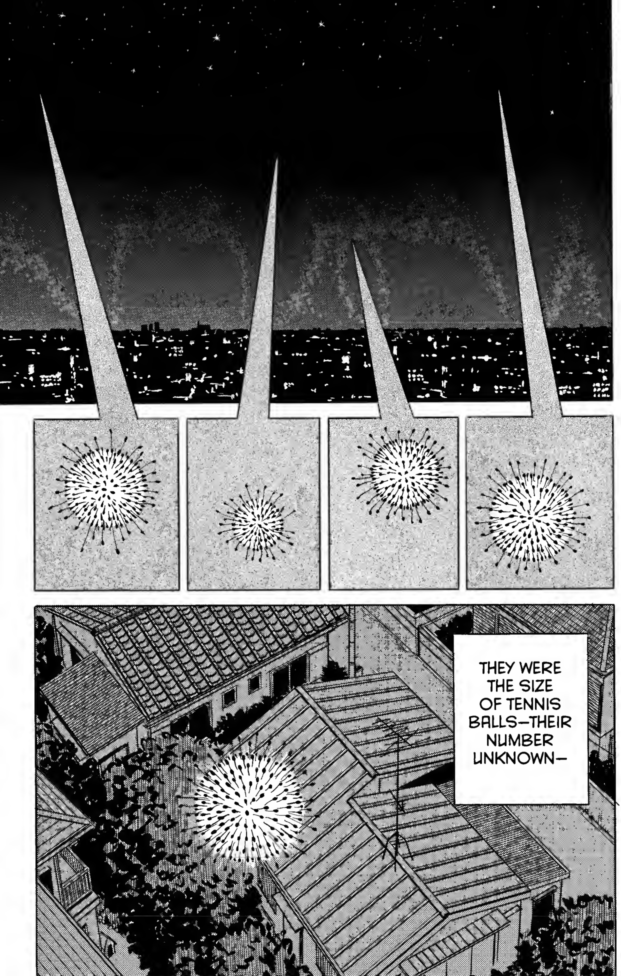
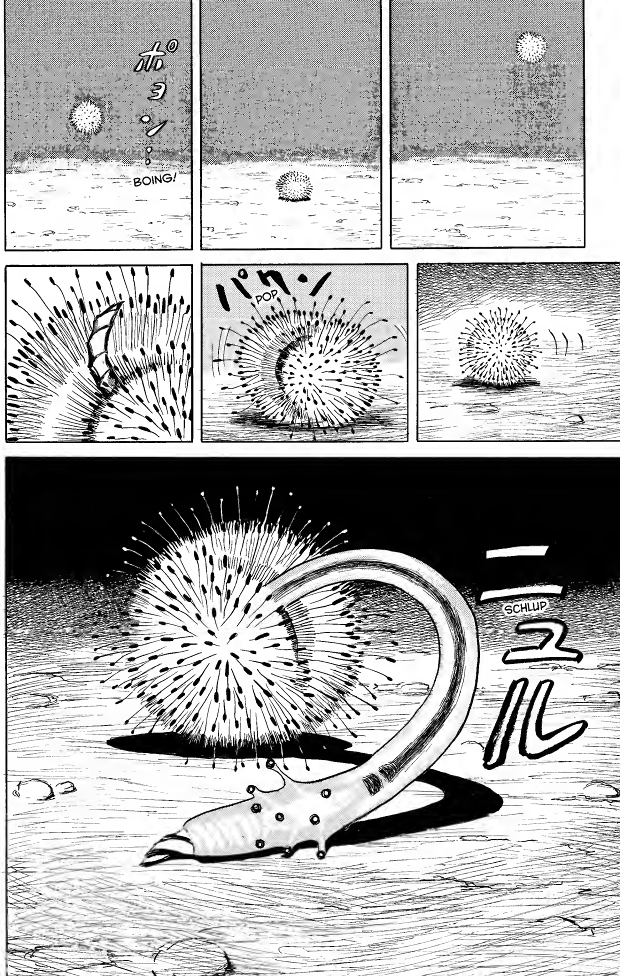
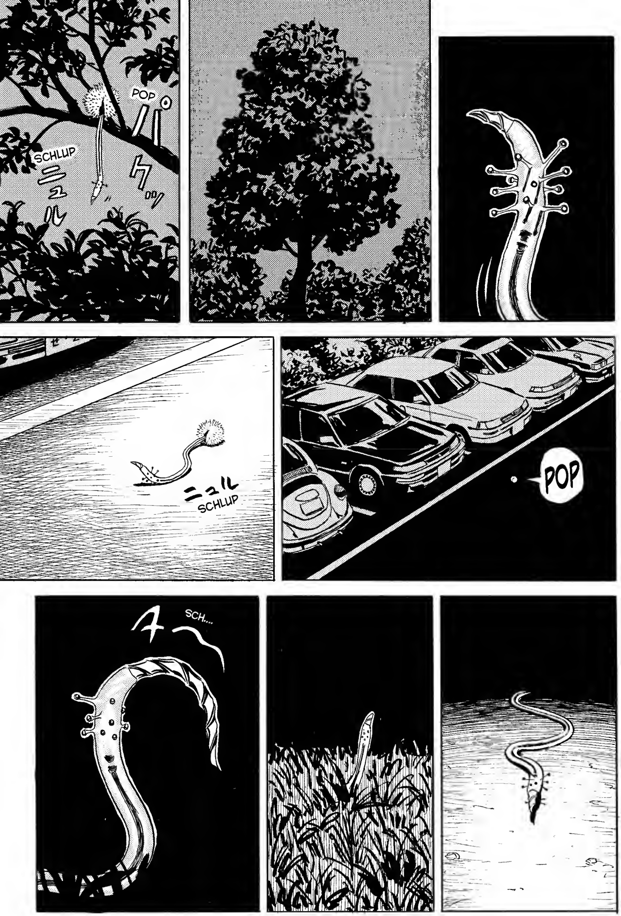
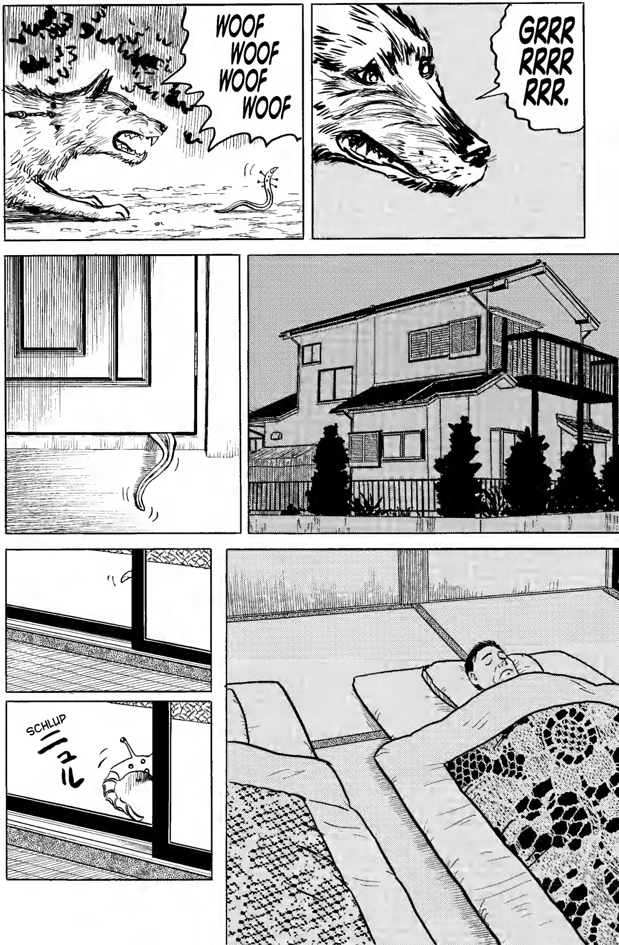
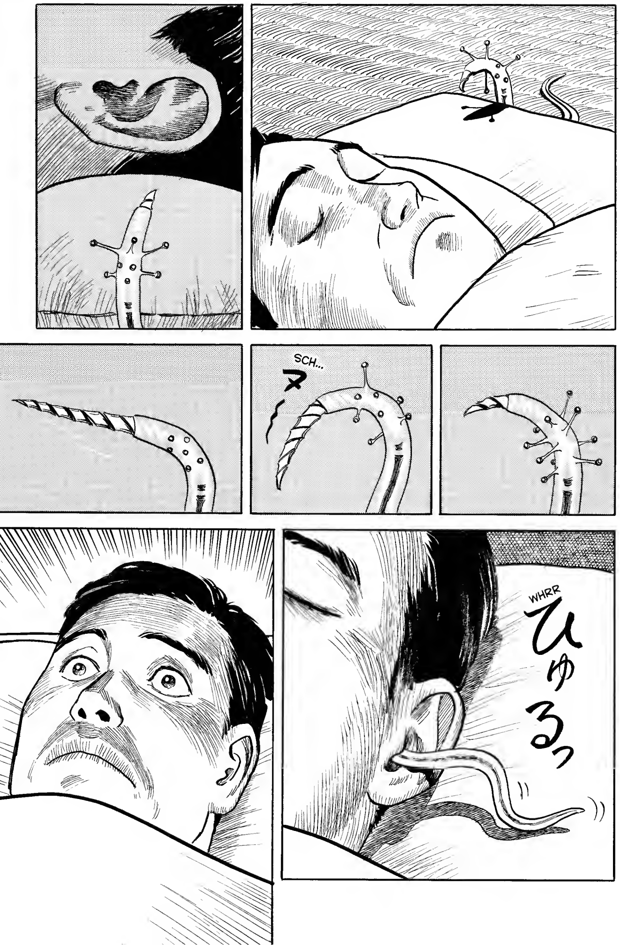
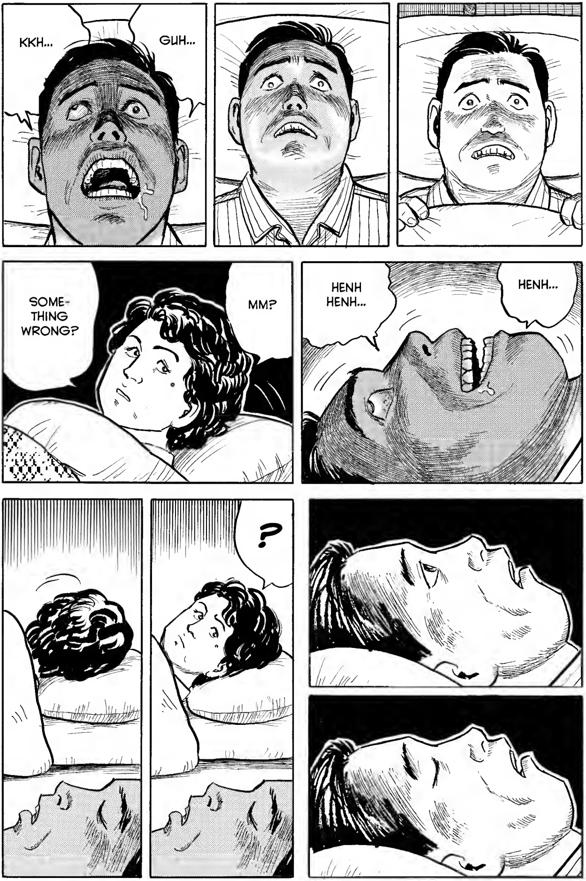

THEY WERE THE SIZE OF TENNIS BALLS—THEIR NUMBER UNKNOWN—

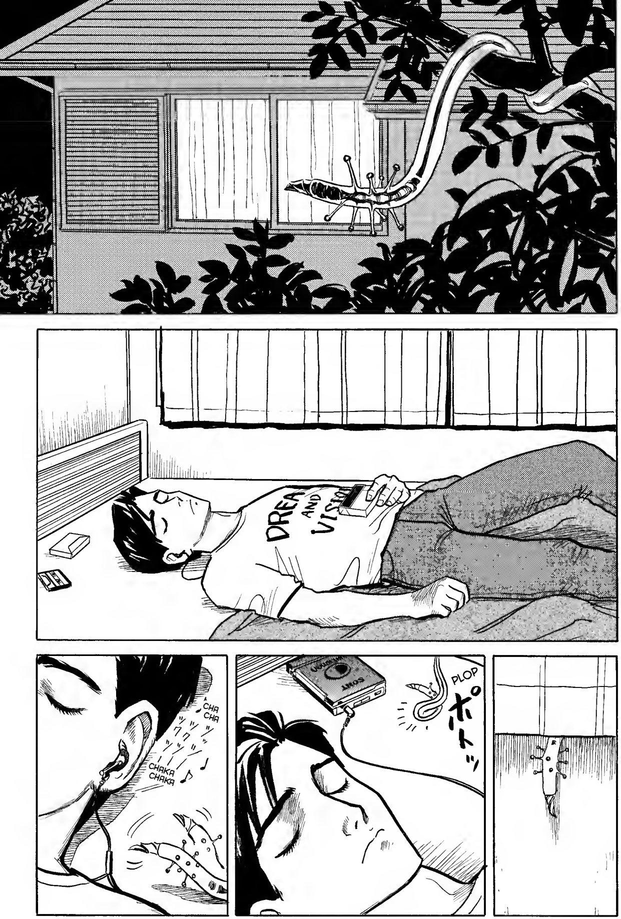

ポヨン…
BOING!
パン
POP
ニュル
SCHLUP

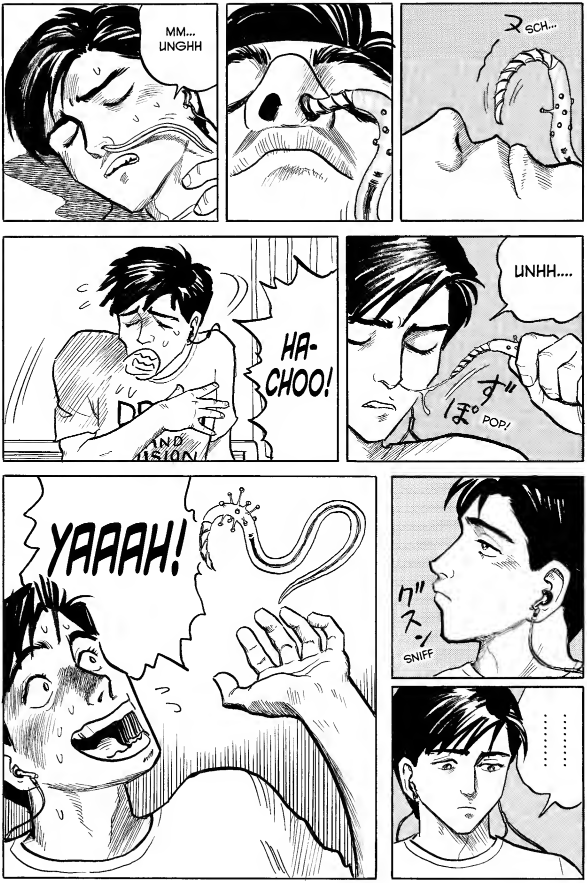

POP
パクッ
SCHLUP
ニュル
ニュル
SCHLUP
POP
スー
SCH....

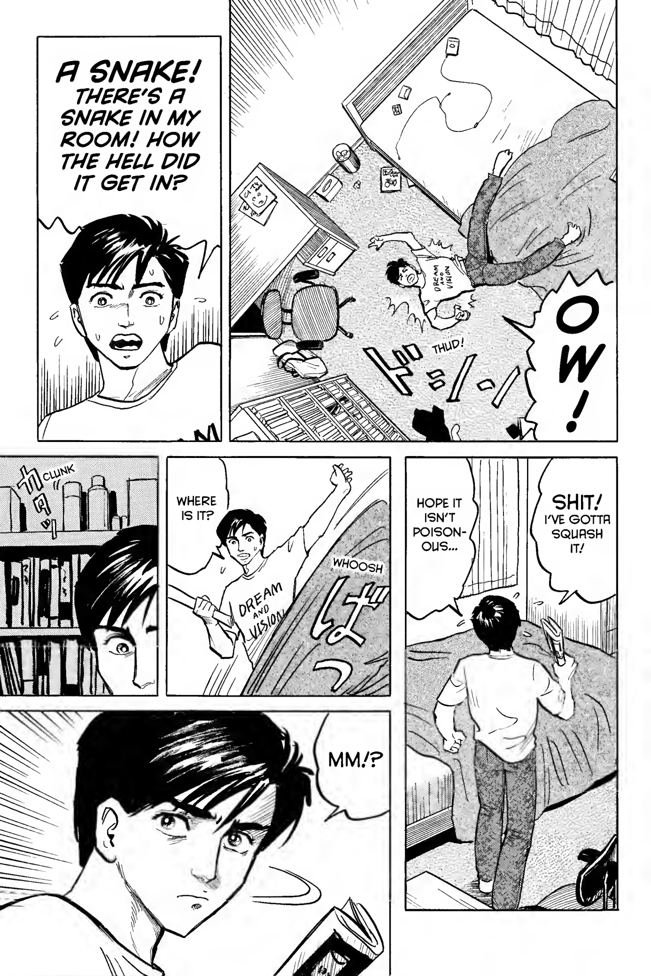

GRRR RRRR RRR.
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
SCHLUP
ニュル

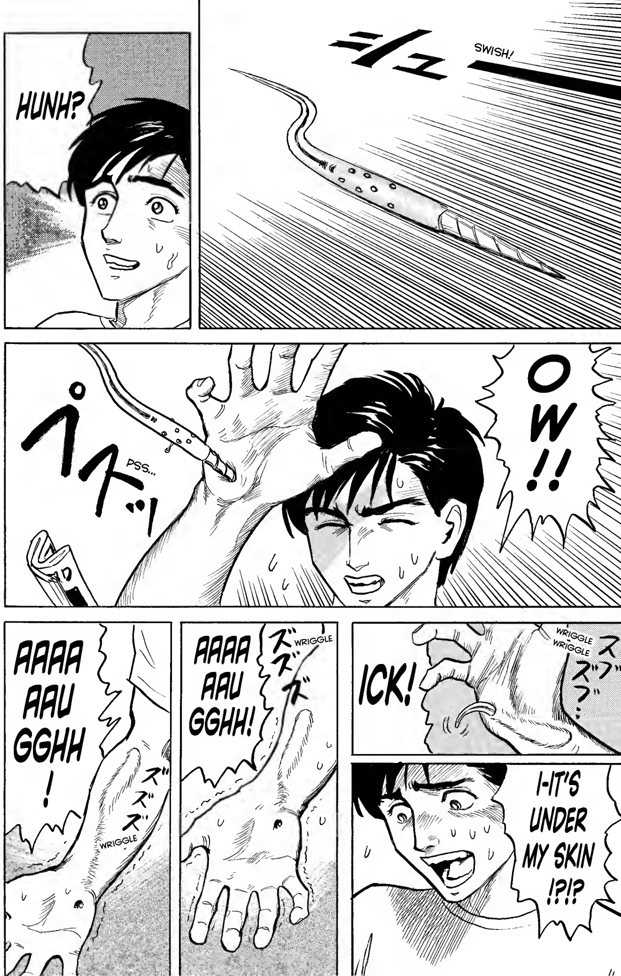

SCH...
ヌ
WHRR
ひゅるっ

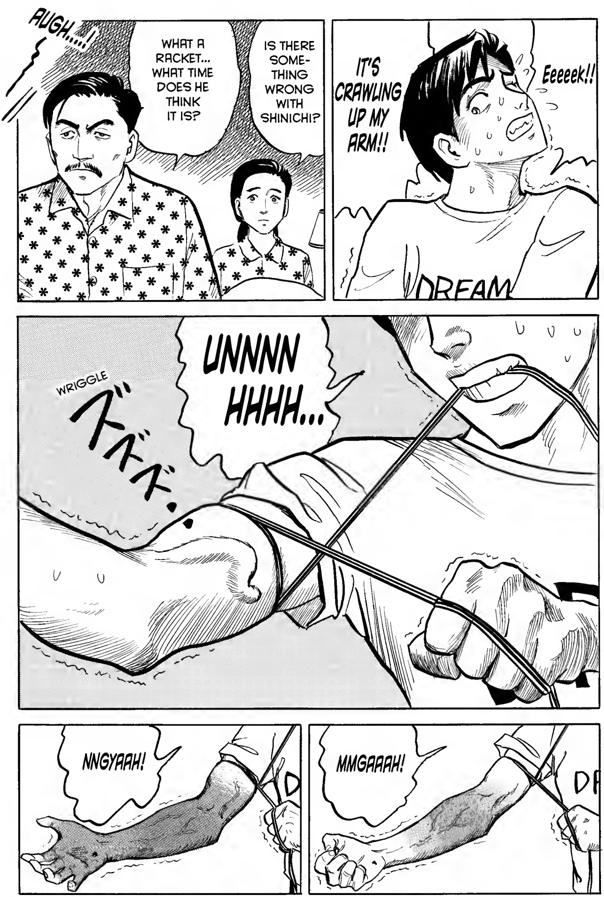

GUH...
KKH...
HENH...
HENH HENH...
MM?
SOMETHING WRONG?
?

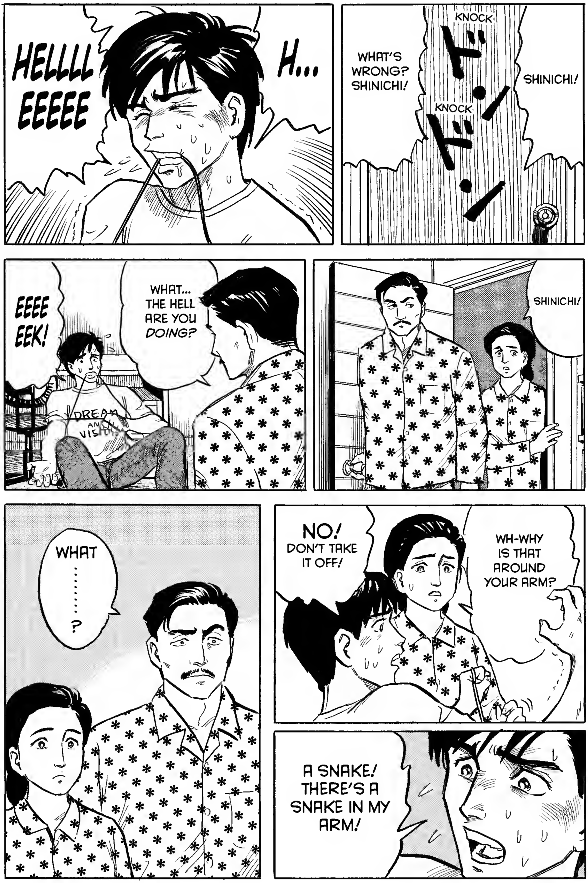

DREA
AND
VISI
PLOP
ポトッ
SONY
CHA
CHA
CHAKA
CHAKA

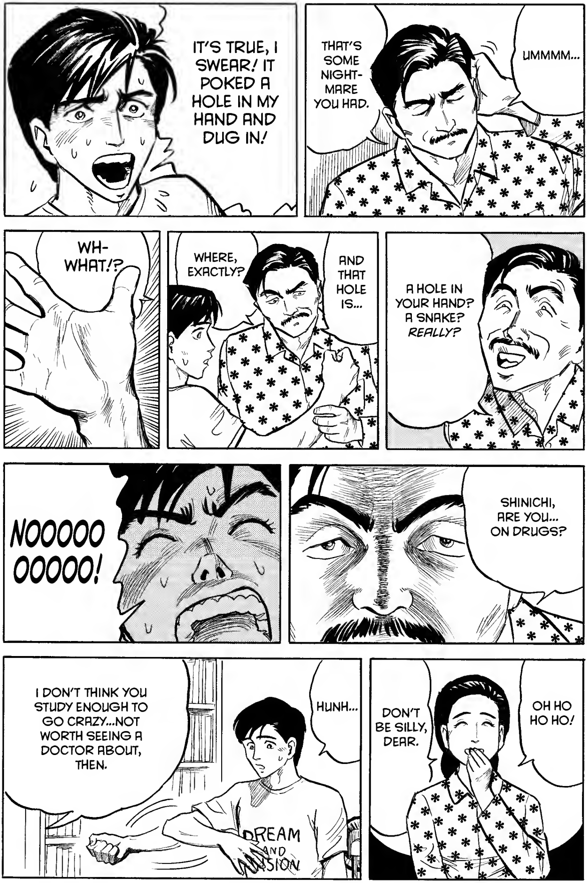

MM...
UNGHH
ヌ SCH...
HA-
CHOO!
AND
UNHH....
ずぽ POP!
YAAAH!
グスン
SNIFF
....

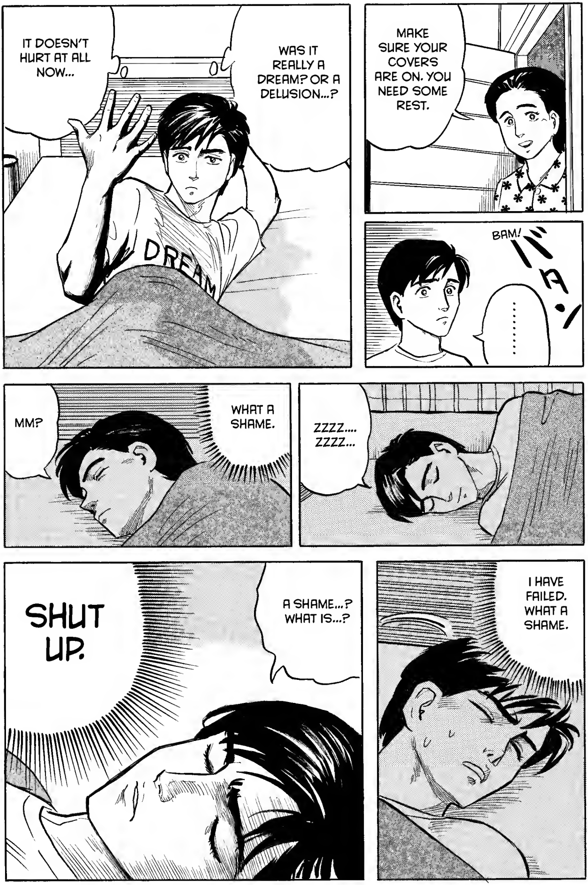

THUD!
OW!
A SNAKE! THERE'S A SNAKE IN MY ROOM! HOW THE HELL DID IT GET IN?
SHIT! I'VE GOTTA SQUASH IT!
HOPE IT ISN'T POISONOUS...
WHERE IS IT?
WHOOSH
ばっ
CLUNK
MM!?

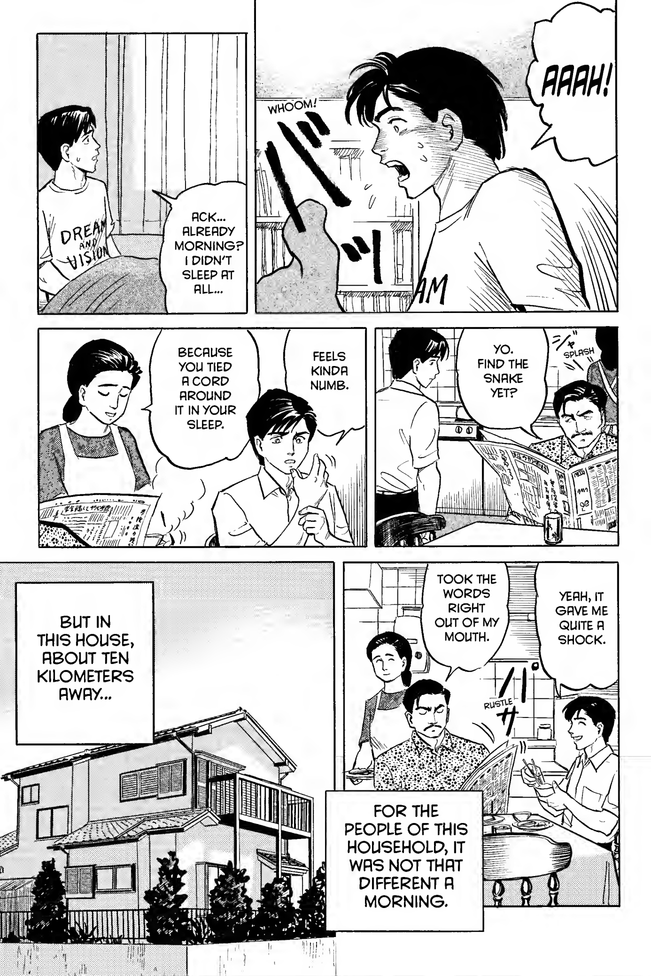

シュ
SWISH!
HUNH?
OW!!
プスッ
PSS...
ズブズブ…
WRIGGLE WRIGGLE
ICK!
I-IT'S UNDER MY SKIN!?!?
ズズズ
WRIGGLE
AAAA AAU GGHH!
ズズズ
WRIGGLE
AAAA AAU GGHH!

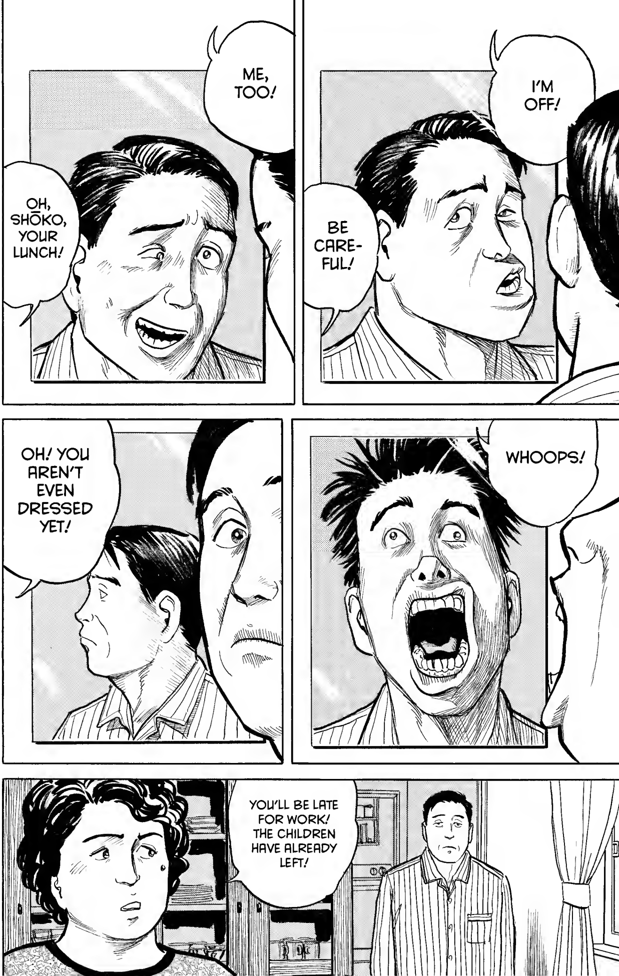

AUGH...!
WHAT A RACKET... WHAT TIME DOES HE THINK IT IS?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH SHINICHI?
IT'S CRAWLING UP MY ARM!!
Eeeeek!!
DREAM
UNNNN HHHH...
WRIGGLE
ベドベド
NNGYAAH!
D
MMGAAAH!
DR

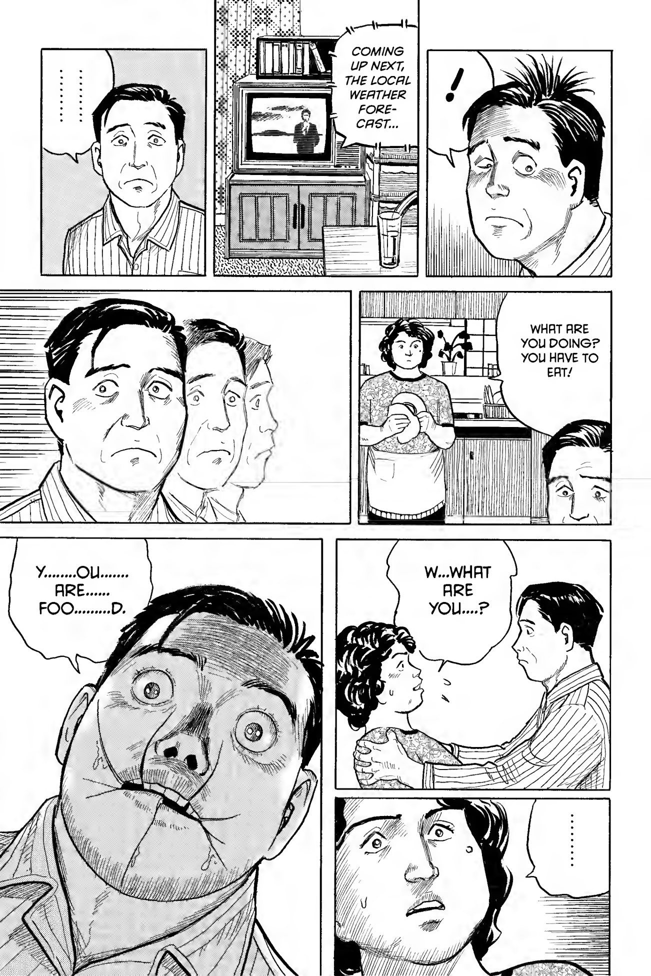

HELLLL EEEEE H...
KNOCK
WHAT'S WRONG? SHINICHI!
SHINICHI!
KNOCK
EEEE EEK!
WHAT... THE HELL ARE YOU *DOING?*
DREAM AND VISION
SHINICHI!
WHAT ....?
NO! DON'T TAKE IT OFF!
WH-WHY IS THAT AROUND YOUR ARM?
A SNAKE! THERE'S A SNAKE IN MY ARM!

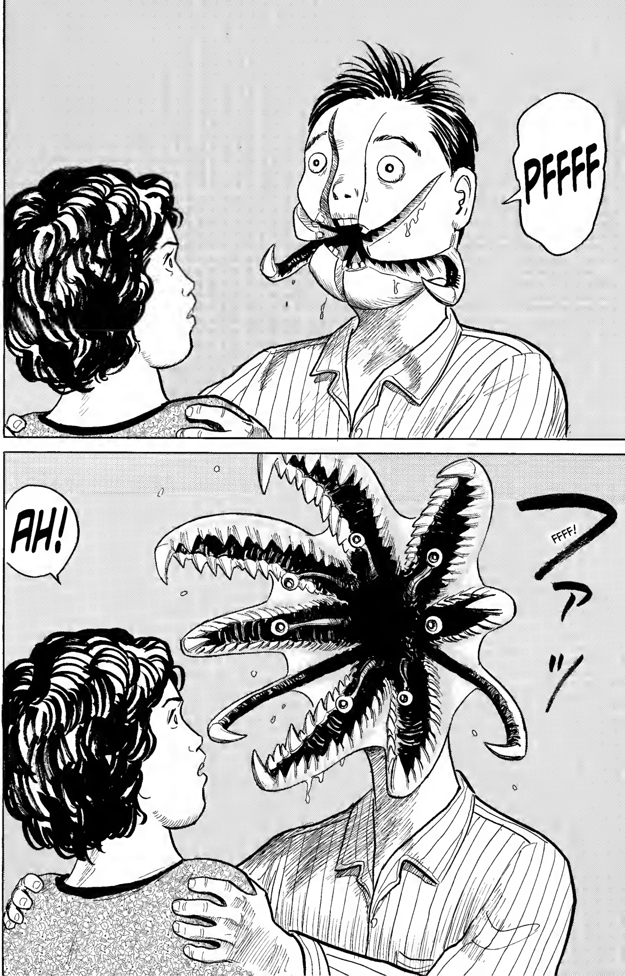

UMMMM...
THAT'S SOME NIGHTMARE YOU HAD.
IT'S TRUE, I SWEAR! IT POKED A HOLE IN MY HAND AND DUG IN!
A HOLE IN YOUR HAND? A SNAKE? *REALLY?*
AND THAT HOLE IS...
WHERE, EXACTLY?
WH-WHAT!?
SHINICHI, ARE YOU... ON DRUGS?
NOOOOOOOOOO!
OH HO HO HO!
DON'T BE SILLY, DEAR.
HUNH...
I DON'T THINK YOU STUDY ENOUGH TO GO CRAZY...NOT WORTH SEEING A DOCTOR ABOUT, THEN.
DREAM AND VISION

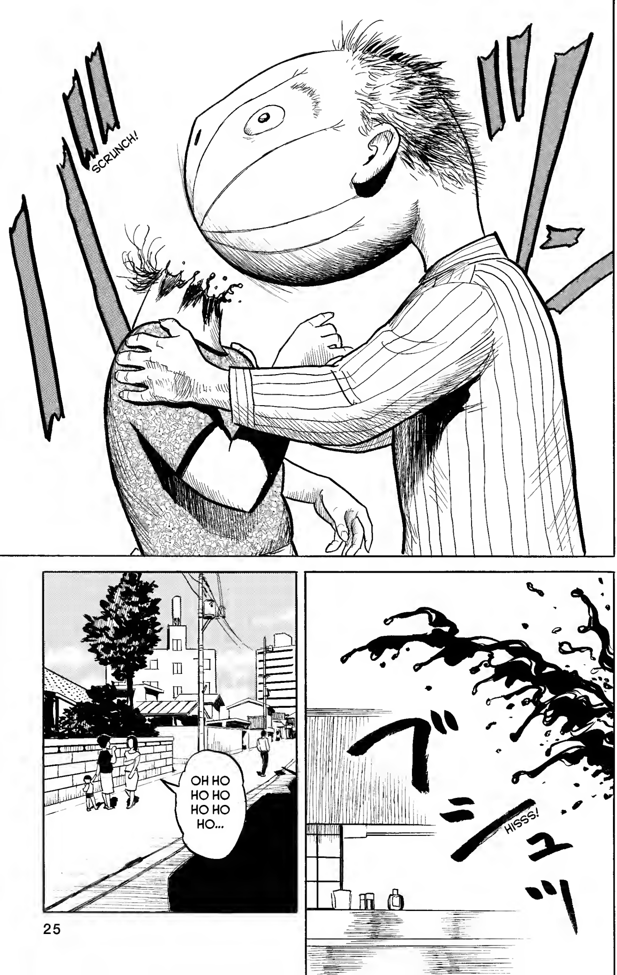

MAKE SURE YOUR COVERS ARE ON. YOU NEED SOME REST.
BAM!
バン
....
WAS IT REALLY A DREAM? OR A DELUSION...?
IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL NOW...
DREAM
ZZZZ.... ZZZZ...
WHAT A SHAME.
MM?
I HAVE FAILED. WHAT A SHAME.
A SHAME...? WHAT IS...?
SHUT UP.

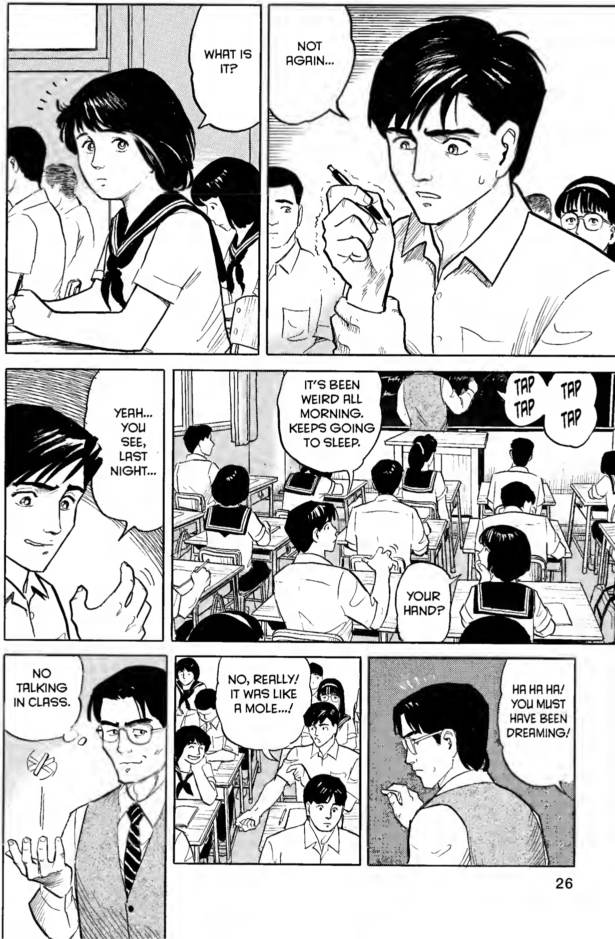

AAAH!
WHOOM!
ACK... ALREADY MORNING? I DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL...
DREAM AND VISION
YO. FIND THE SNAKE YET?
SPLASH
FEELS KINDA NUMB.
BECAUSE YOU TIED A CORD AROUND IT IN YOUR SLEEP.
YEAH, IT GAVE ME QUITE A SHOCK.
TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH.
RUSTLE
FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS HOUSEHOLD, IT WAS NOT THAT DIFFERENT A MORNING.
BUT IN THIS HOUSE, ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS AWAY...

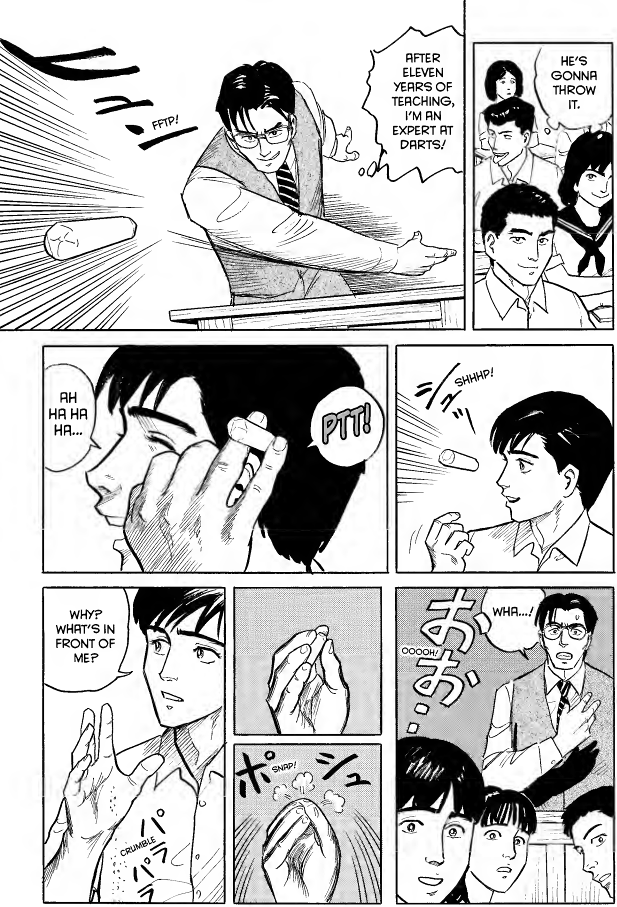

ME, TOO!
OH, SHŌKO, YOUR LUNCH!
I'M OFF!
BE CAREFUL!
OH! YOU AREN'T EVEN DRESSED YET!
WHOOPS!
YOU'LL BE LATE FOR WORK! THE CHILDREN HAVE ALREADY LEFT!

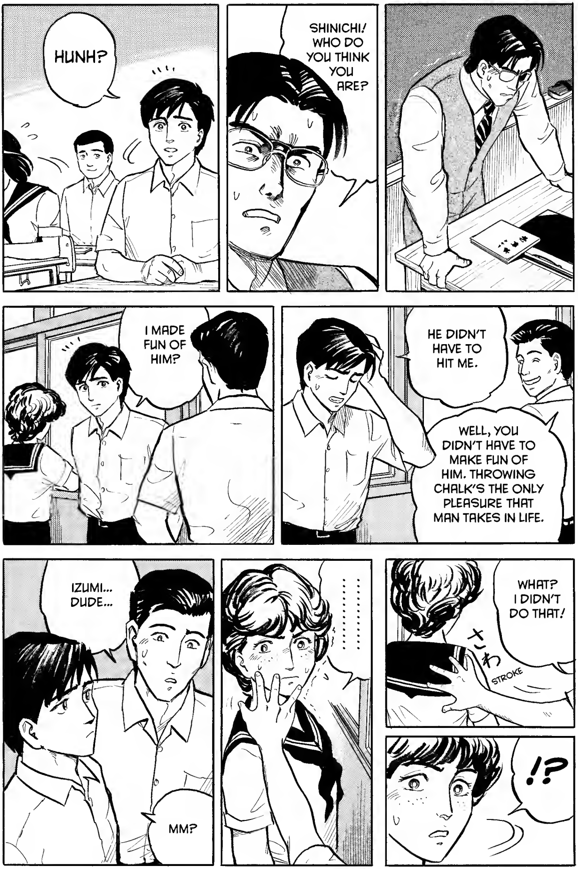

……
COMING UP NEXT, THE LOCAL WEATHER FORE-CAST...
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU HAVE TO EAT!
Y........OU....... ARE...... FOO.........D.
W...WHAT ARE YOU....?
……

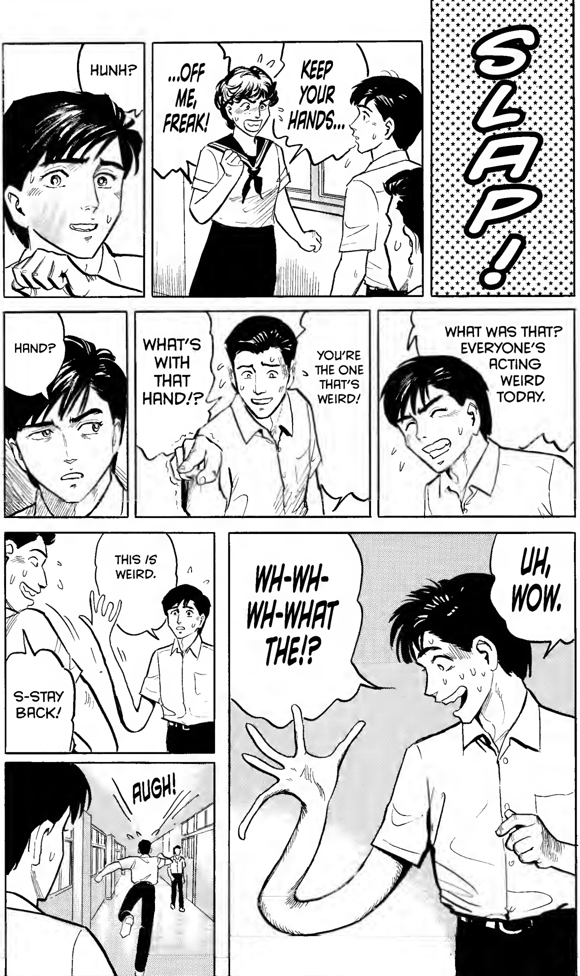

PFFFF
ファッ
FFFF!
AH!

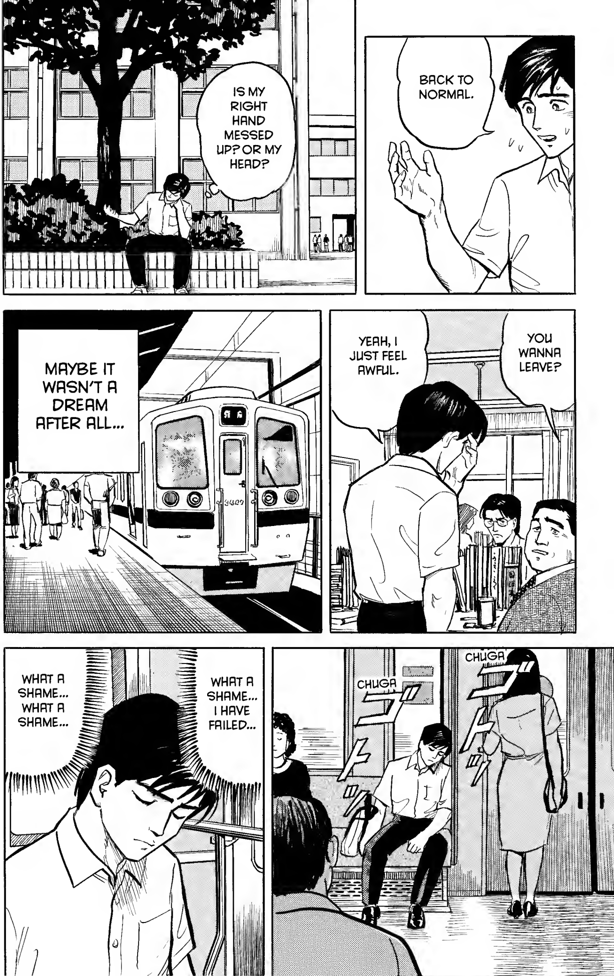

SCRUNCH!
ブシュッ
HISSS!
OH HO HO HO HO HO HO...

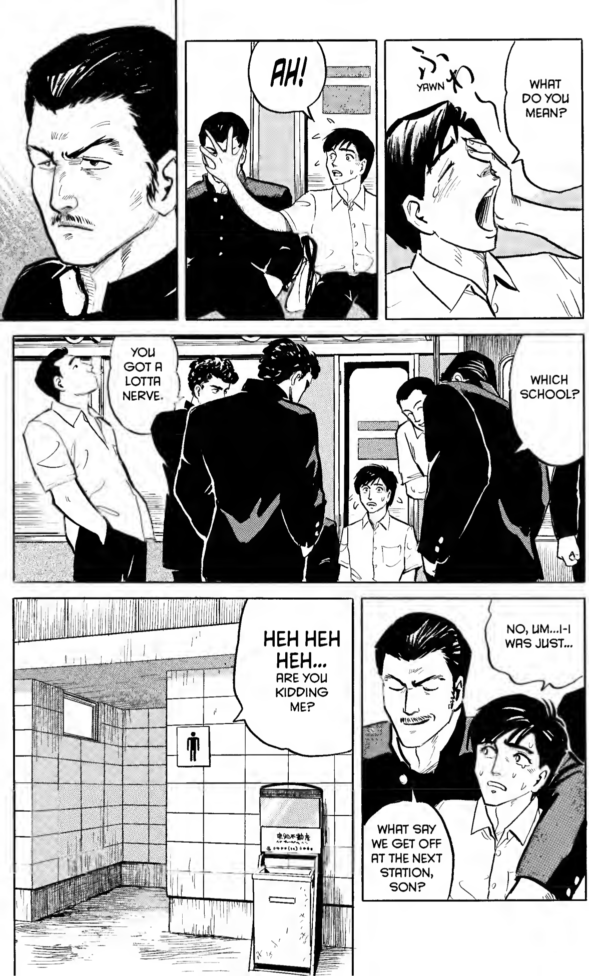

NOT AGAIN...
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S BEEN WEIRD ALL MORNING. KEEPS GOING TO SLEEP.
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
YOUR HAND?
YEAH... YOU SEE, LAST NIGHT...
HA HA HA! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING!
NO, REALLY! IT WAS LIKE A MOLE...!
NO TALKING IN CLASS.

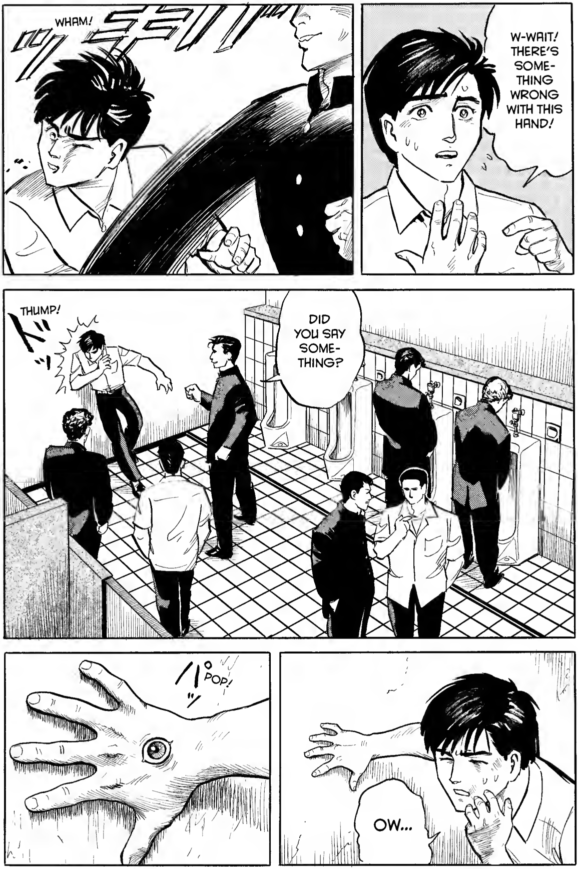

FFTP!
AFTER ELEVEN YEARS OF TEACHING, I'M AN EXPERT AT DARTS!
HE'S GONNA THROW IT.
PTT!
AH HA HA HA...
SHHHP!
WHY? WHAT'S IN FRONT OF ME?
パラパラ
CRUMBLE
ポシュ
SNAP!
WHA...!
おおっ...
OOOOH!

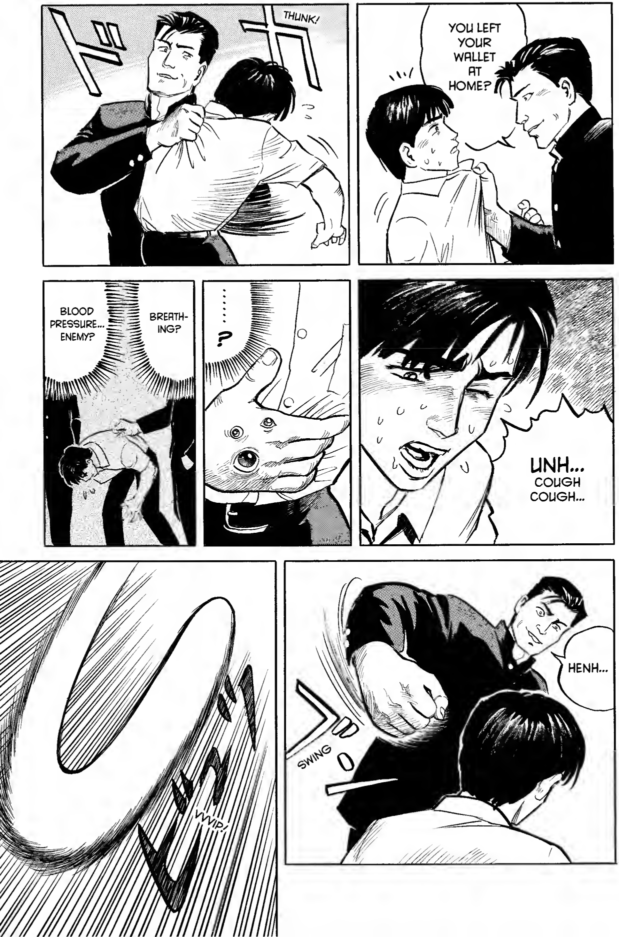

HUNH?
SHINICHI! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I MADE FUN OF HIM?
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME.
WELL, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE FUN OF HIM. THROWING CHALK'S THE ONLY PLEASURE THAT MAN TAKES IN LIFE.
IZUMI... DUDE...
MM?
WHAT? I DIDN'T DO THAT!
さわ
STROKE
!?

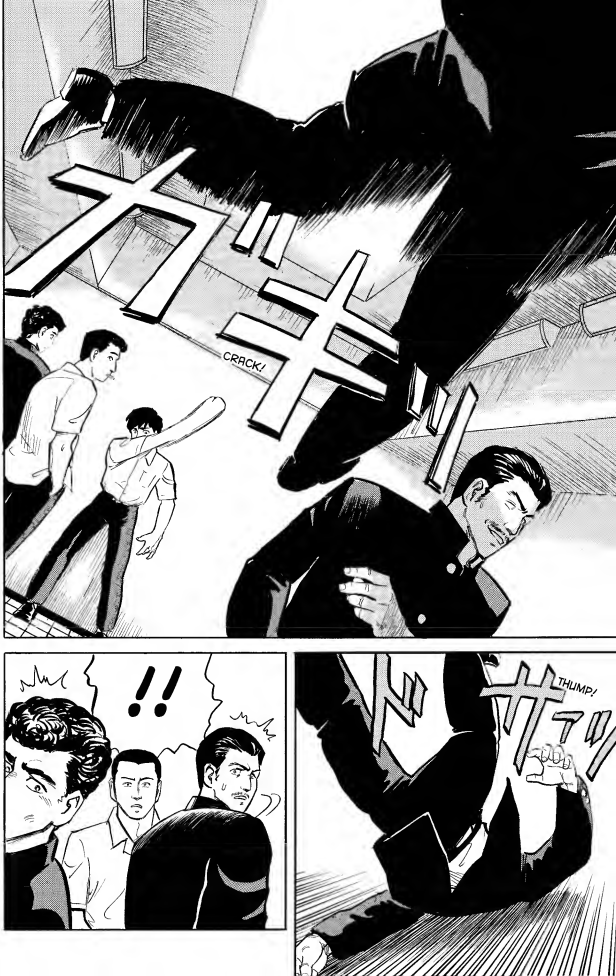

SLAP!
KEEP YOUR HANDS...
...OFF ME, FREAK!
HUNH?
WHAT WAS THAT? EVERYONE'S ACTING WEIRD TODAY.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S WEIRD!
WHAT'S WITH THAT HAND!?
HAND?
UH, WOW.
WH-WH-WH-WHAT THE!?
THIS *IS* WEIRD.
S-STAY BACK!
AUGH!

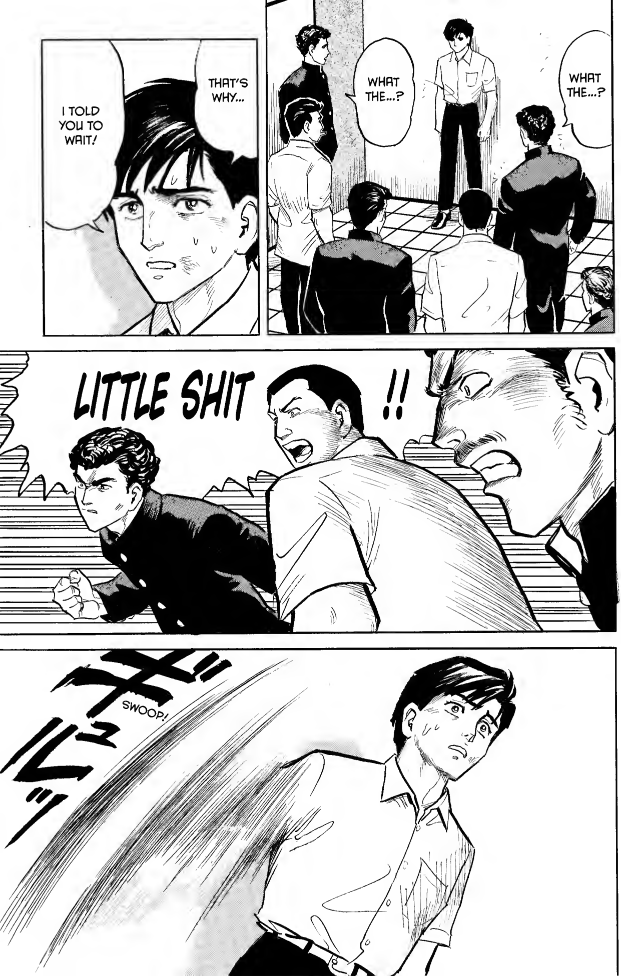

BACK TO NORMAL.
IS MY RIGHT HAND MESSED UP? OR MY HEAD?
YOU WANNA LEAVE?
YEAH, I JUST FEEL AWFUL.
MAYBE IT WASN'T A DREAM AFTER ALL...
CHUGA
CHUGA
WHAT A SHAME... I HAVE FAILED...
WHAT A SHAME... WHAT A SHAME...

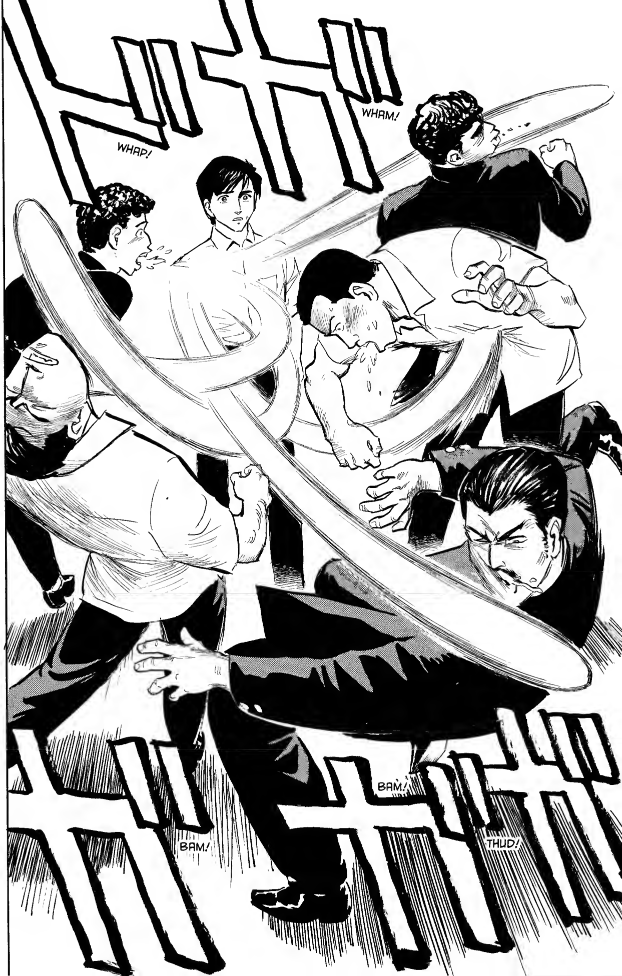

ふわ
YAWN
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH!
WHICH SCHOOL?
YOU GOT A LOTTA NERVE.
NO, UM...I-I WAS JUST...
WHAT SAY WE GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION, SON?
HEH HEH HEH... ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

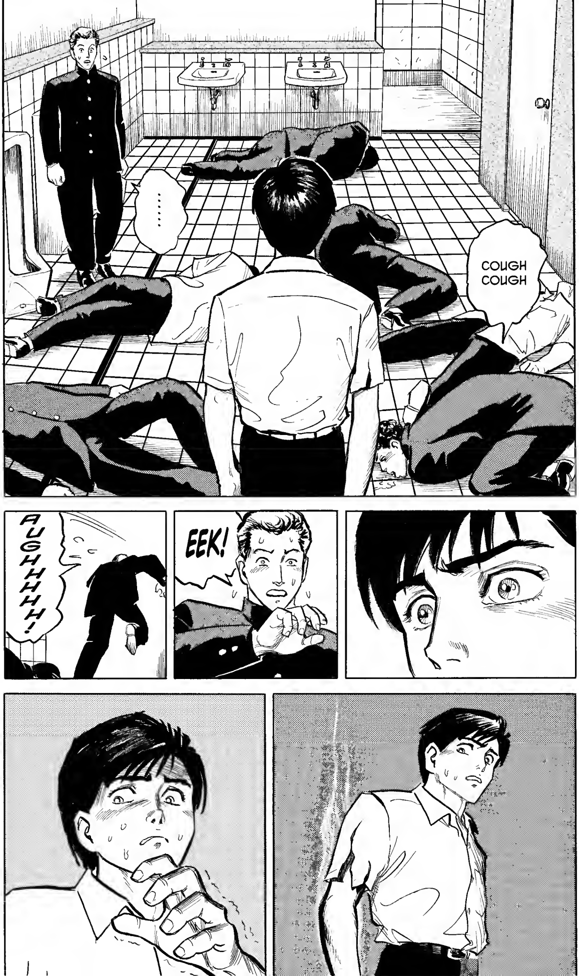

WHAM!
W-WAIT! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS HAND!
THUMP!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
POP!
OW...

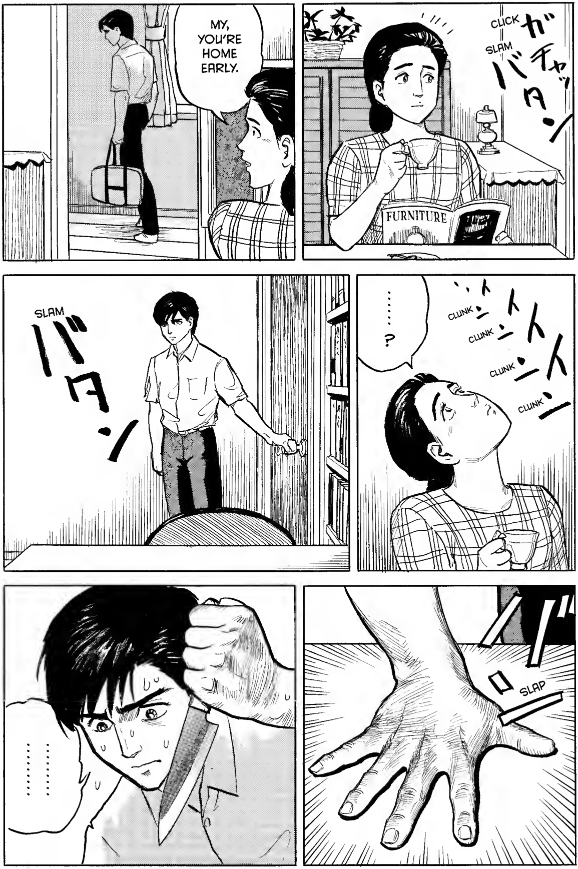

ドカ
THUNK!
YOU LEFT YOUR WALLET AT HOME?
BLOOD PRESSURE... ENEMY?
BREATH-ING?
...... ?
UNH... COUGH COUGH...
VVIP!
SWING
HENH...

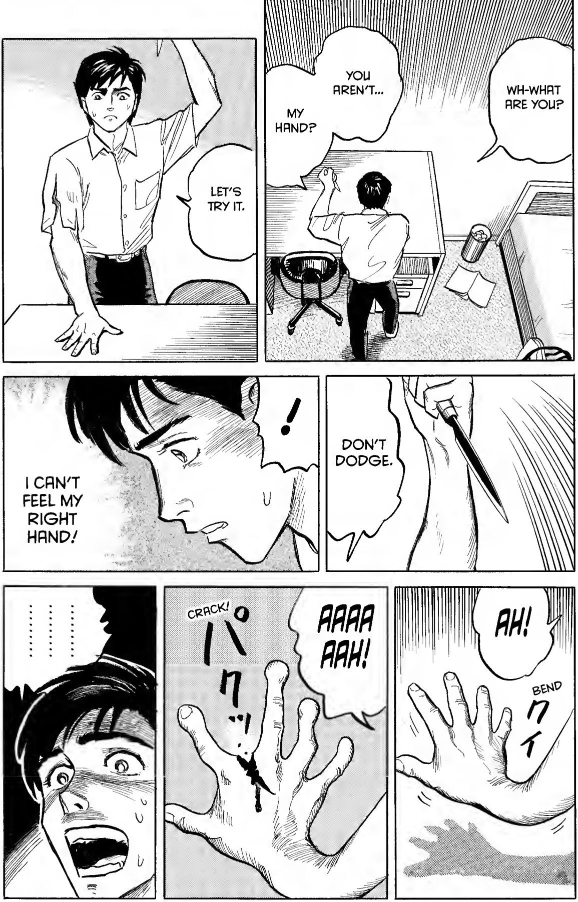

CRACK!
THUMP!
!!

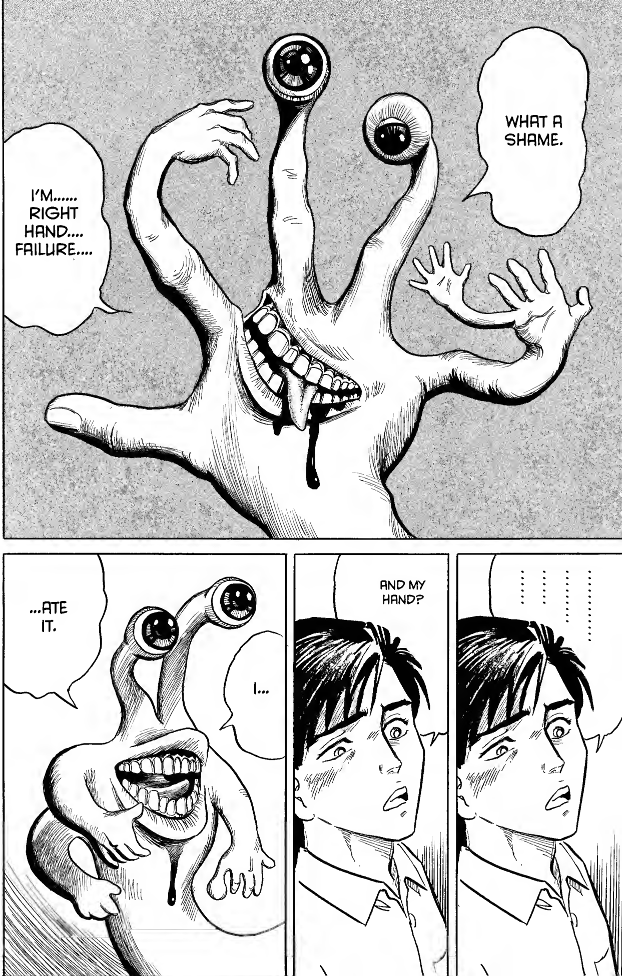

WHAT THE...?
WHAT THE...?
THAT'S WHY...
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT!
LITTLE SHIT !!
ギュルッ
SWOOP!

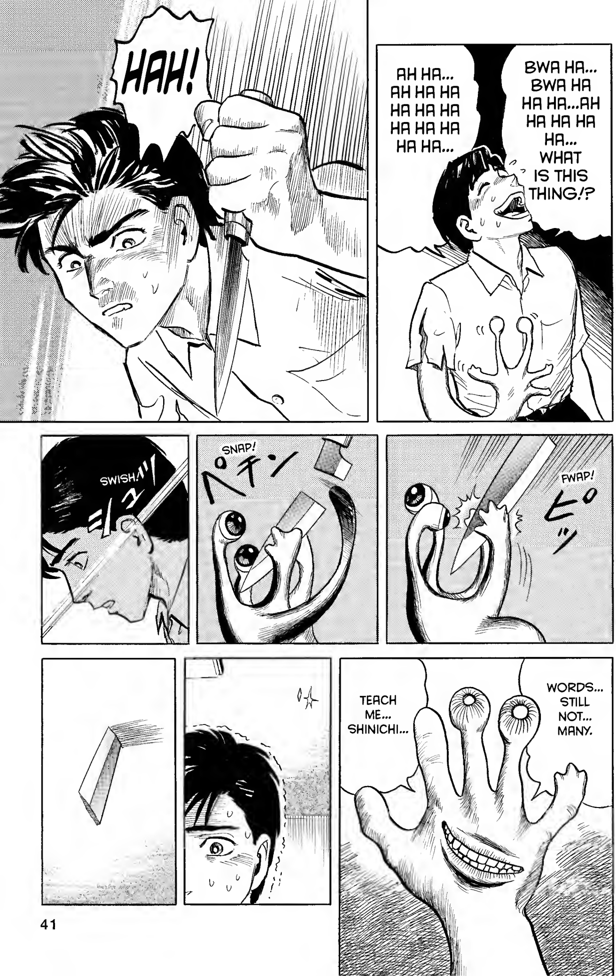

WHAM!
WHAP!
BAM!
THUD!
BAM!

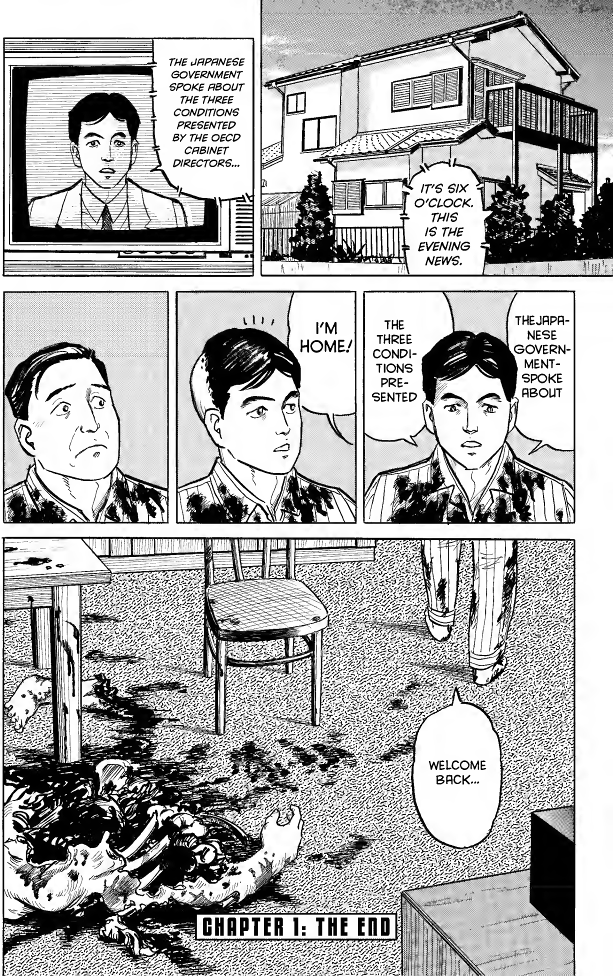

......
COUGH
COUGH
AUGHHHHH!
EEK!

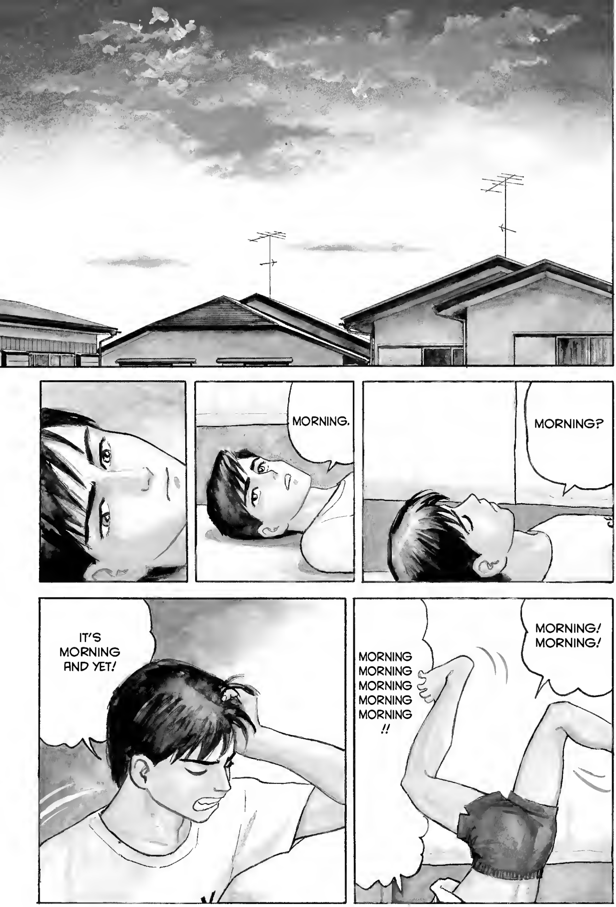

CLICK ガチャッ
SLAM バタン
MY, YOU'RE HOME EARLY.
......?
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
SLAM バタン
SLAP
......
......

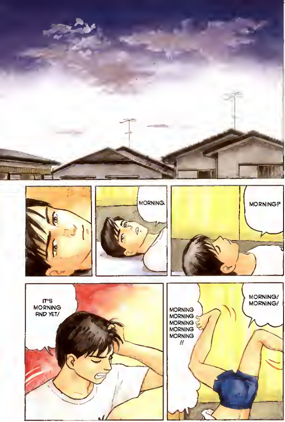

WH-WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU AREN'T...
MY HAND?
LET'S TRY IT.
DON'T DODGE.
!
I CAN'T FEEL MY RIGHT HAND!
AH!
BEND
クイ
AAAAAAH!
CRACK!
パクッ
......


WHAT A SHAME.
I'M...... RIGHT HAND.... FAILURE....
......
AND MY HAND?
I...
...ATE IT.

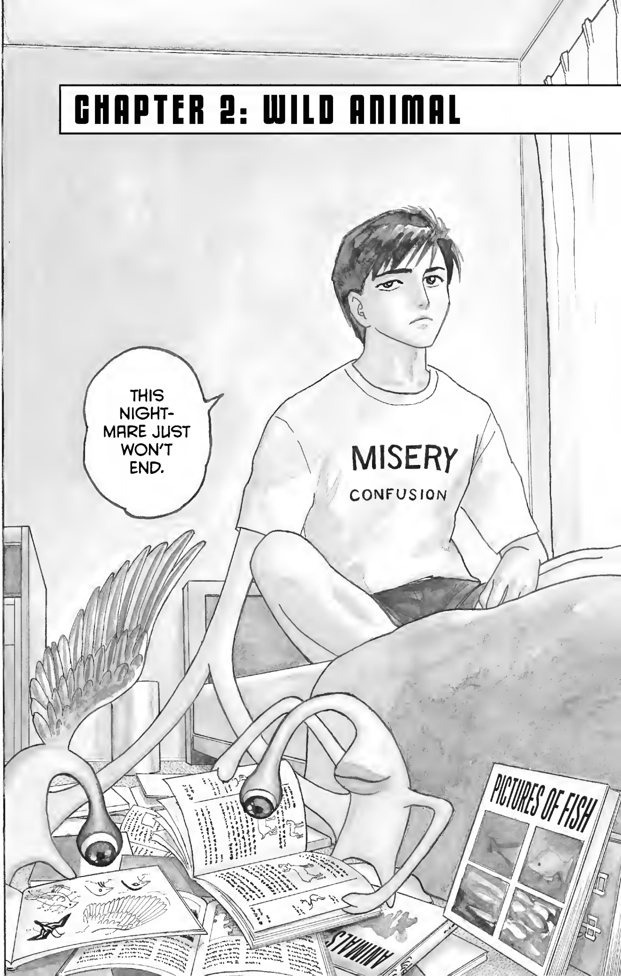

HAH!
AH HA... AH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA...
BWA HA... BWA HA HA HA...AH HA HA HA HA... WHAT IS THIS THING!?
SWISH!
SNAP!
パチン
FWAP!
ピッ
TEACH ME... SHINICHI...
WORDS... STILL NOT... MANY.


IT'S SIX O'CLOCK. THIS IS THE EVENING NEWS.
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SPOKE ABOUT THE THREE CONDITIONS PRESENTED BY THE OECD CABINET DIRECTORS...
THEJAPANESE GOVERNMENT-SPOKE ABOUT
THE THREE CONDITIONS PRESENTED
I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK...
CHAPTER 1: THE END

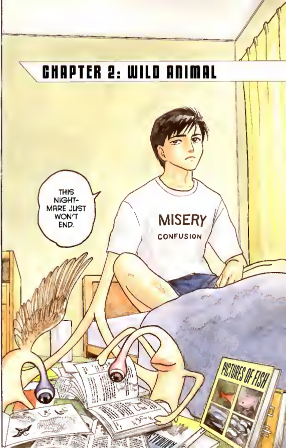

MORNING.
MORNING?
IT'S MORNING AND YET!
MORNING! MORNING!
MORNING MORNING MORNING MORNING MORNING !!

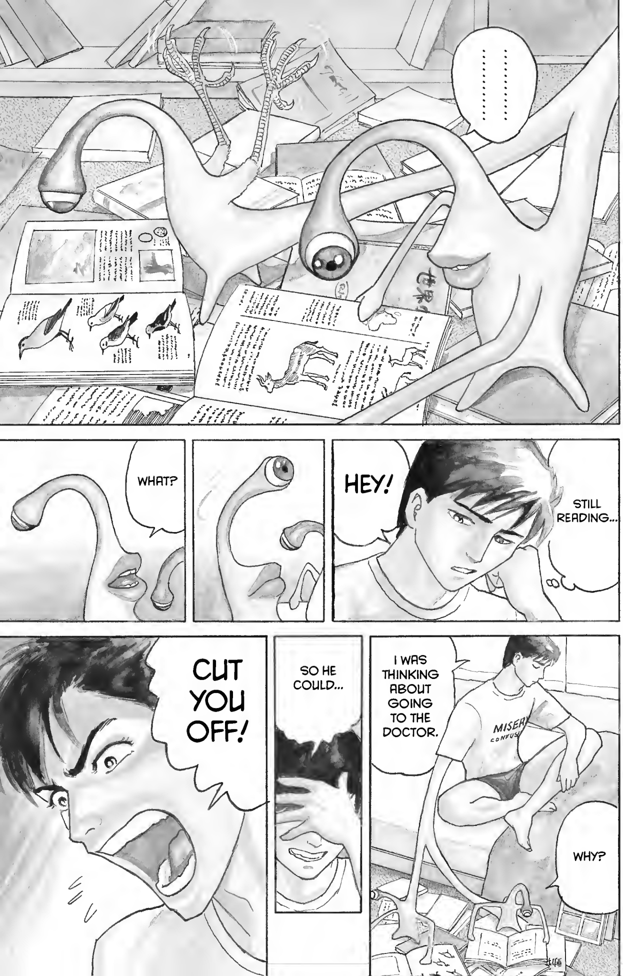

MORNING.
MORNING?
IT'S MORNING AND YET!
MORNING! MORNING!
MORNING MORNING MORNING MORNING MORNING !!

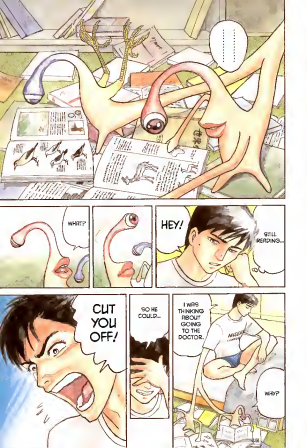
CHAPTER 2: WILD ANIMAL

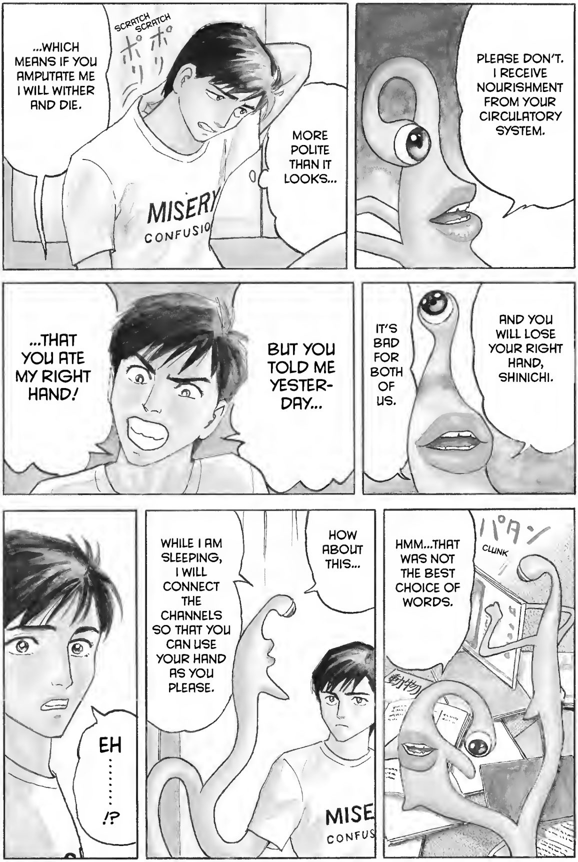

THIS NIGHTMARE JUST WON'T END.
MISERY
CONFUSION
PICTURES OF FISH
ANIMALS

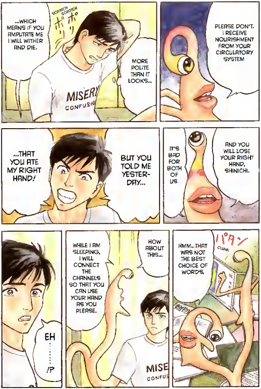
CHAPTER 2: WILD ANIMAL

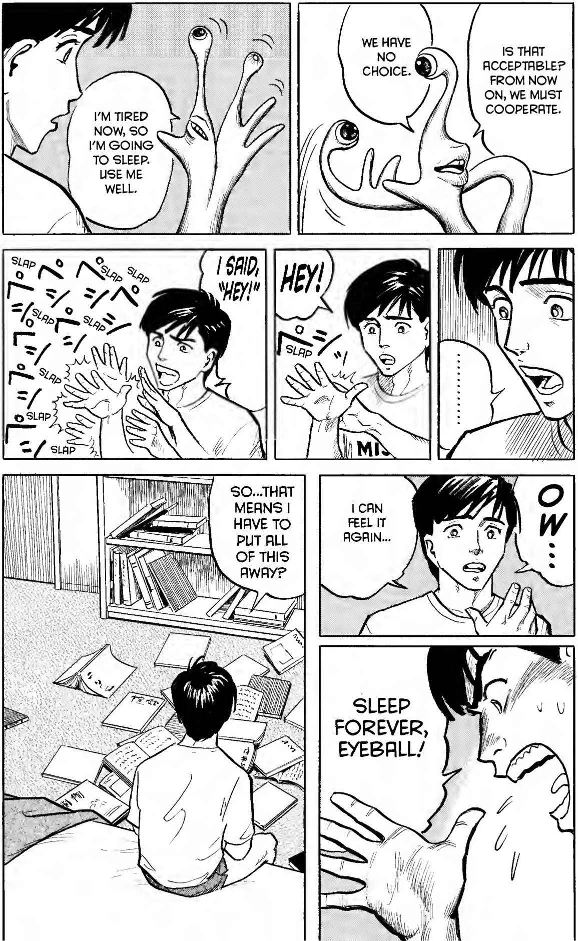

THIS NIGHT-MARE JUST WON'T END.
MISERY
CONFUSION
PICTURES OF FISH
ANIMALS

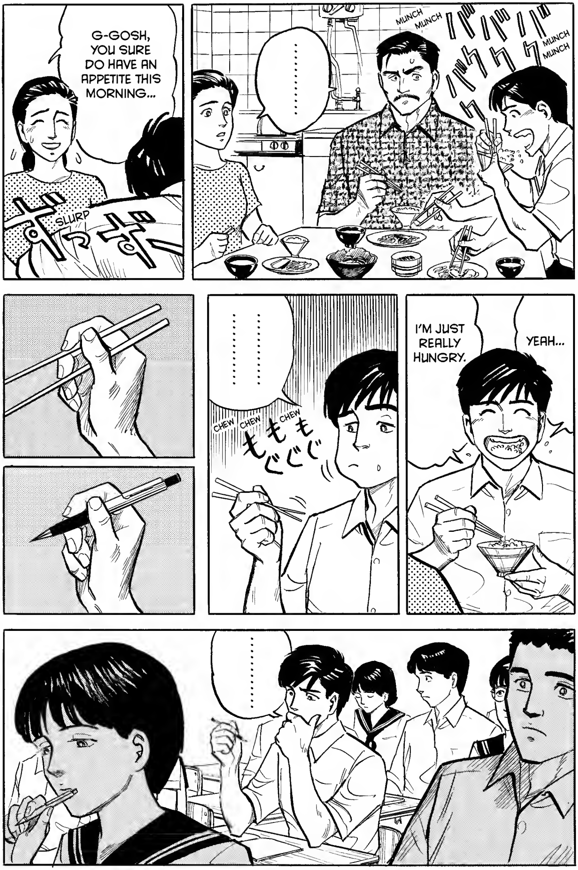

……
STILL READING...
HEY!
WHAT?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING TO THE DOCTOR.
MISERY CONFUS
WHY?
SO HE COULD...
CUT YOU OFF!

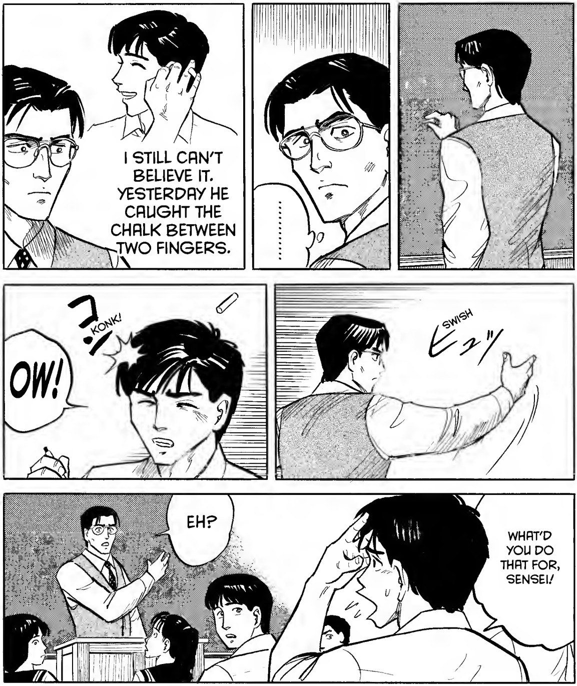

......
HEY!
STILL READING...
WHAT?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT GOING TO THE DOCTOR.
WHY?
SO HE COULD...
CUT YOU OFF!

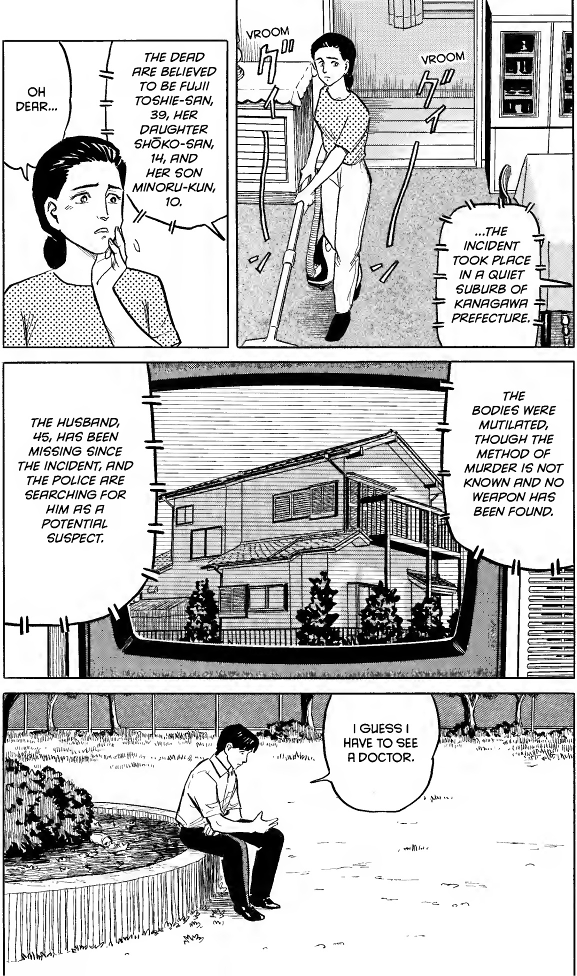

PLEASE DON'T. I RECEIVE NOURISHMENT FROM YOUR CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.
...WHICH MEANS IF YOU AMPUTATE ME I WILL WITHER AND DIE.
ポリポリ
SCRATCH SCRATCH
MORE POLITE THAN IT LOOKS...
MISERY
CONFUSIO
AND YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT HAND, SHINICHI.
IT'S BAD FOR BOTH OF US.
BUT YOU TOLD ME YESTER-DAY...
...THAT YOU ATE MY RIGHT HAND!
パタン
CLUNK
HMM...THAT WAS NOT THE BEST CHOICE OF WORDS.
動物
HOW ABOUT THIS...
WHILE I AM SLEEPING, I WILL CONNECT THE CHANNELS SO THAT YOU CAN USE YOUR HAND AS YOU PLEASE.
MISE
CONFUS
EH .... !?

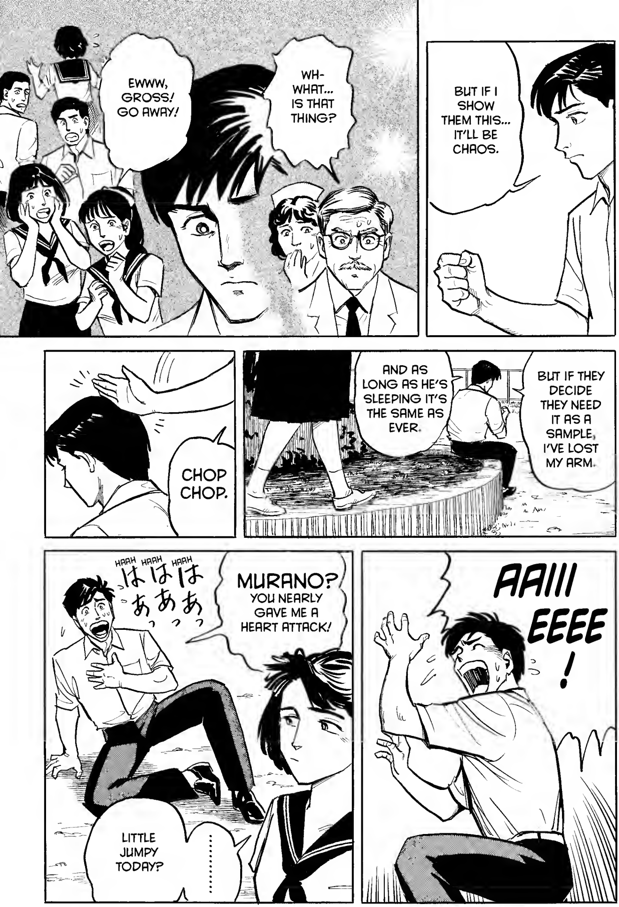

PLEASE DON'T. I RECEIVE NOURISHMENT FROM YOUR CIRCULATORY SYSTEM
MORE POLITE THAN IT LOOKS...
...WHICH MEANS IF YOU AMPUTATE ME I WILL WITHER AND DIE.
ポリポリ
SCRATCH SCRATCH
MISERY
CONFUSION
AND YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT HAND, SHINICHI.
IT'S BAD FOR BOTH OF US.
BUT YOU TOLD ME YESTERDAY...
...THAT YOU ATE MY RIGHT HAND!
パタン
CLINK
HMM...THAT WAS NOT THE BEST CHOICE OF WORDS.
HOW ABOUT THIS...
WHILE I AM SLEEPING, I WILL CONNECT THE CHANNELS SO THAT YOU CAN USE YOUR HAND AS YOU PLEASE.
MISE
CONFUS
EH......!?

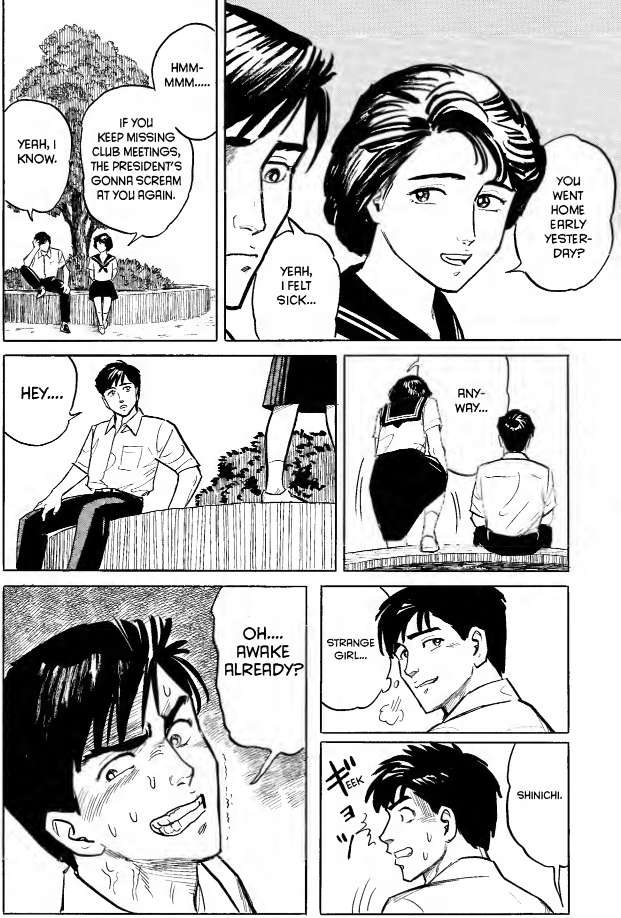

IS THAT ACCEPTABLE? FROM NOW ON, WE MUST COOPERATE.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
I'M TIRED NOW, SO I'M GOING TO SLEEP. USE ME WELL.
......
HEY!
SLAP
I SAID, "HEY!"
SLAP SLAP SLAP SLAP SLAP SLAP SLAP SLAP
OW...
I CAN FEEL IT AGAIN...
SLEEP FOREVER, EYEBALL!
SO...THAT MEANS I HAVE TO PUT ALL OF THIS AWAY?

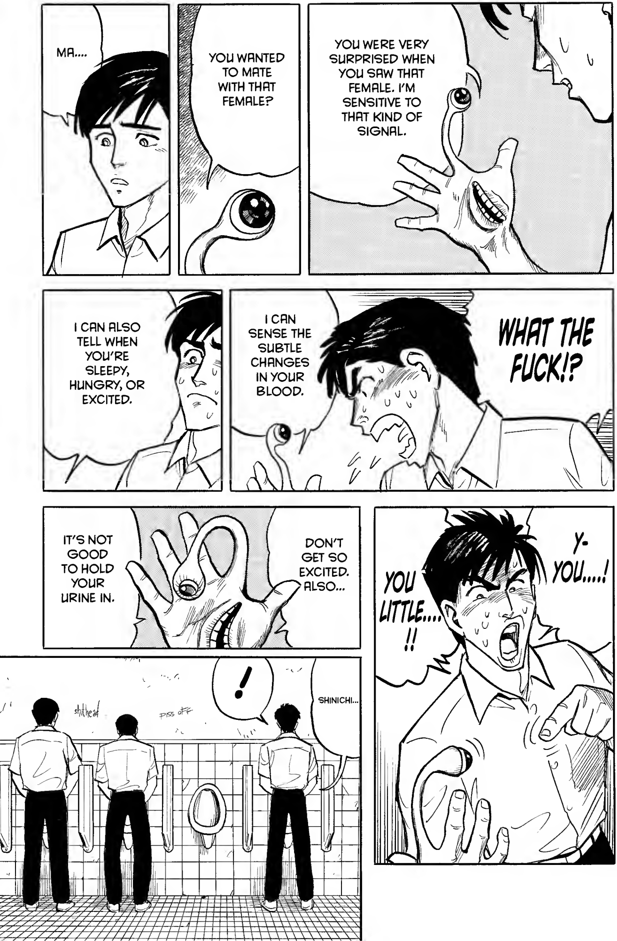

MUNCH MUNCH
バババ
MUNCH MUNCH
バクパクク
……
G-GOSH, YOU SURE DO HAVE AN APPETITE THIS MORNING...
SLURP
ズッズー
YEAH...
I'M JUST REALLY HUNGRY.
……
……
CHEW CHEW CHEW
もぐもぐもぐ
……

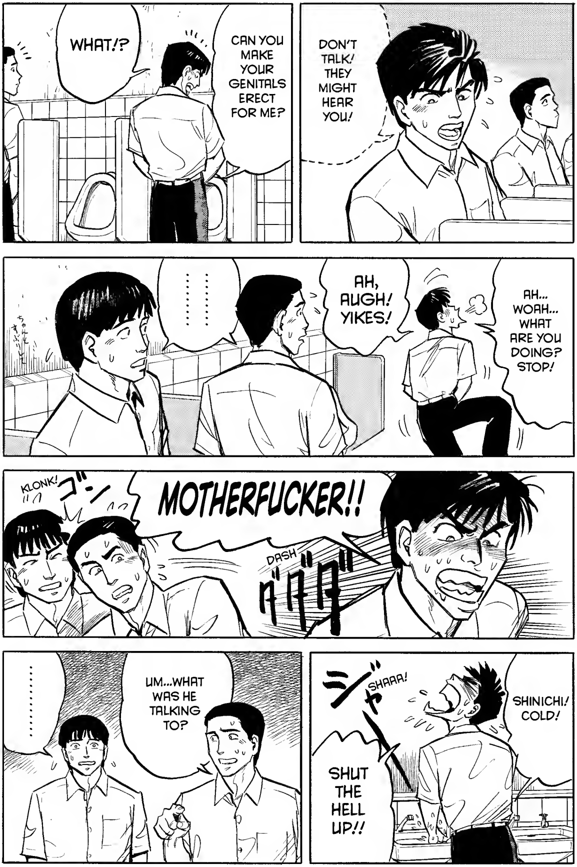

......
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT. YESTERDAY HE CAUGHT THE CHALK BETWEEN TWO FINGERS.
SWISH
ヒュッ
コン
KONK!
OW!
WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR, SENSEI!
EH?
UH... SORRY.
DAMN.
GIGGLE
クスクス

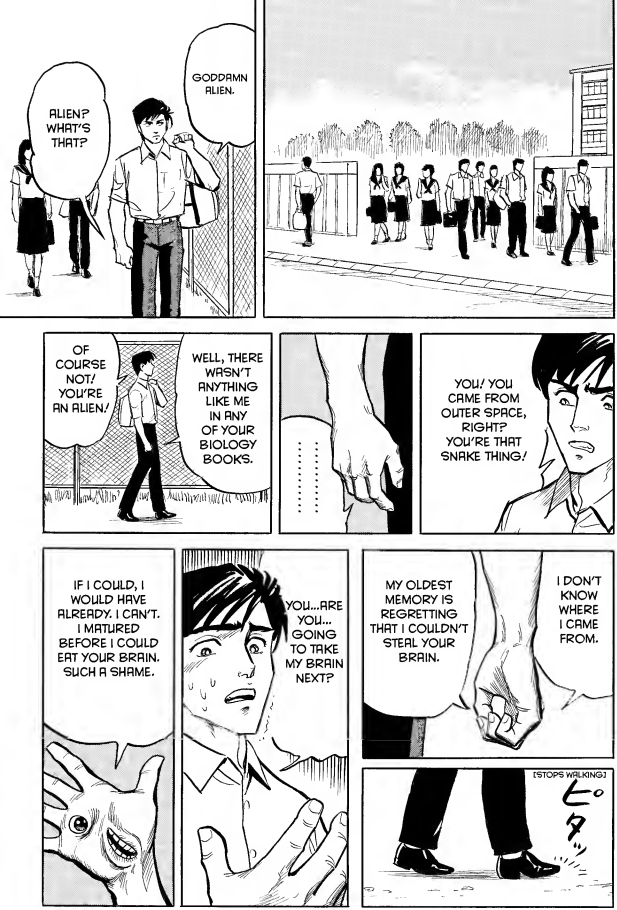

VROOM
グィ
VROOM
グィ
...THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN A QUIET SUBURB OF KANAGAWA PREFECTURE.
THE DEAD ARE BELIEVED TO BE FUJII TOSHIE-SAN, 39, HER DAUGHTER SHŌKO-SAN, 14, AND HER SON MINORU-KUN, 10.
OH DEAR...
THE BODIES WERE MUTILATED, THOUGH THE METHOD OF MURDER IS NOT KNOWN AND NO WEAPON HAS BEEN FOUND.
THE HUSBAND, 45, HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE THE INCIDENT, AND THE POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR HIM AS A POTENTIAL SUSPECT.
I GUESS I HAVE TO SEE A DOCTOR.

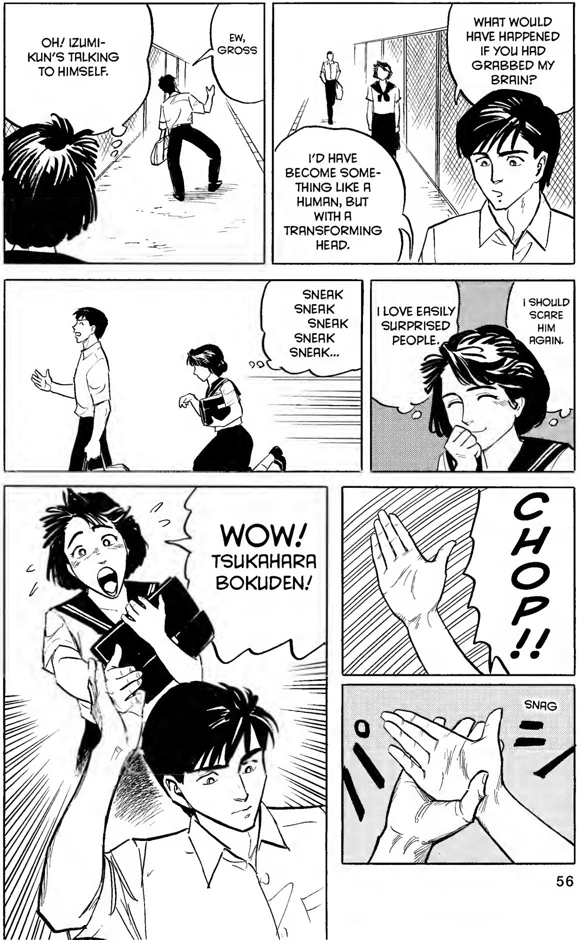

BUT IF I SHOW THEM THIS... IT'LL BE CHAOS.
WH- WHAT... IS THAT THING?
EWWW, GROSS! GO AWAY!
BUT IF THEY DECIDE THEY NEED IT AS A SAMPLE, I'VE LOST MY ARM.
AND AS LONG AS HE'S SLEEPING IT'S THE SAME AS EVER.
CHOP CHOP.
AAIII EEEE!
HAAH HAAH HAAH
ははは
あっあっあっ
MURANO? YOU NEARLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK!
……
LITTLE JUMPY TODAY?

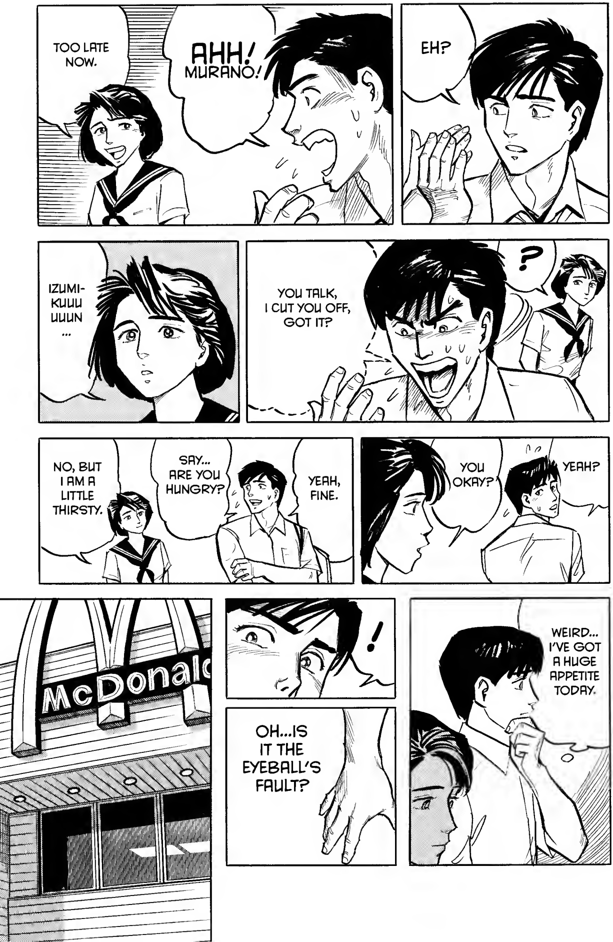

YOU WENT HOME EARLY YESTERDAY?
YEAH, I FELT SICK...
HMM-MMM.....
IF YOU KEEP MISSING CLUB MEETINGS, THE PRESIDENT'S GONNA SCREAM AT YOU AGAIN.
YEAH, I KNOW.
ANY-WAY...
HEY....
STRANGE GIRL...
ギョッ
EEK
SHINICHI.
OH.... AWAKE ALREADY?

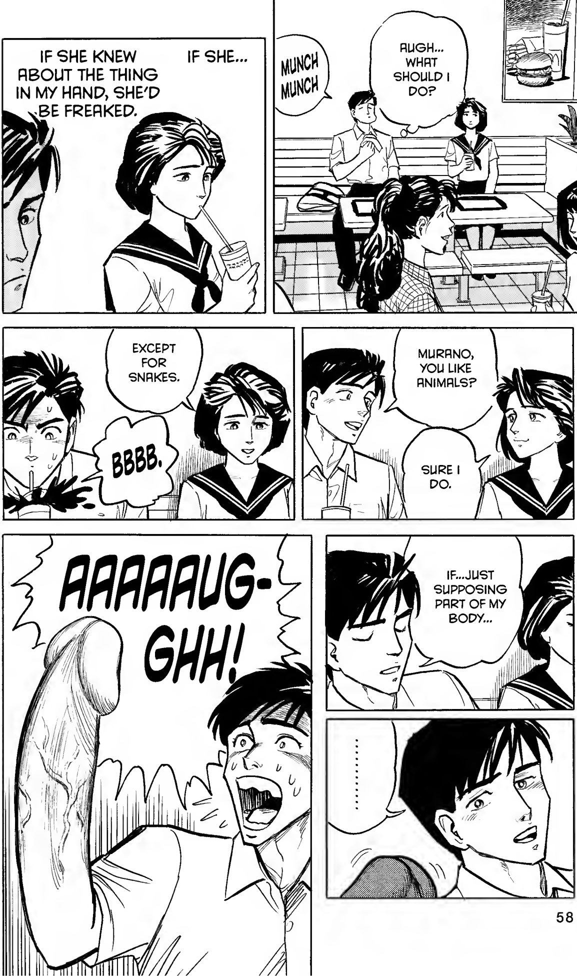

MA....
YOU WANTED TO MATE WITH THAT FEMALE?
YOU WERE VERY SURPRISED WHEN YOU SAW THAT FEMALE. I'M SENSITIVE TO THAT KIND OF SIGNAL.
I CAN ALSO TELL WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPY, HUNGRY, OR EXCITED.
I CAN SENSE THE SUBTLE CHANGES IN YOUR BLOOD.
WHAT THE FUCK!?
DON'T GET SO EXCITED. ALSO...
IT'S NOT GOOD TO HOLD YOUR URINE IN.
Y-YOU....!
YOU LITTLE....!!
shithead
piss off
!
SHINICHI...

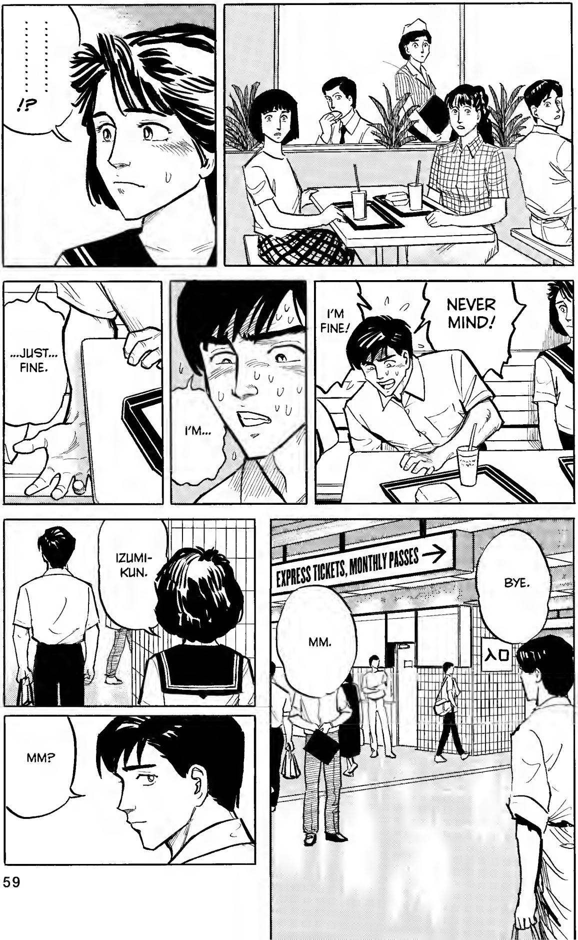

DON'T TALK! THEY MIGHT HEAR YOU!
CAN YOU MAKE YOUR GENITALS ERECT FOR ME?
WHAT!?
AH... WOAH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP!
AH, AUGH! YIKES!
......
ちゃんと すぶりして
MOTHERFUCKER!!
DASH
ダダダ
ゴン
KLONK!
SHINICHI! COLD!
ジャ
SHAAA!
SHUT THE HELL UP!!
UM...WHAT WAS HE TALKING TO?
......

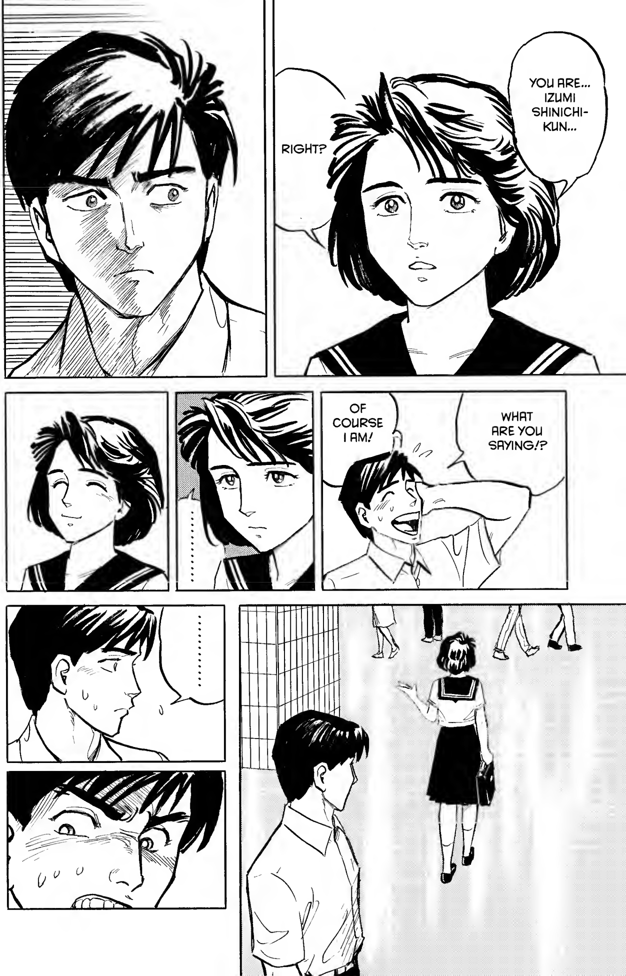

GODDAMN ALIEN.
ALIEN? WHAT'S THAT?
YOU! YOU CAME FROM OUTER SPACE, RIGHT? YOU'RE THAT SNAKE THING!
……
WELL, THERE WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE ME IN ANY OF YOUR BIOLOGY BOOKS.
OF COURSE NOT! YOU'RE AN ALIEN!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM.
MY OLDEST MEMORY IS REGRETTING THAT I COULDN'T STEAL YOUR BRAIN.
[STOPS WALKING]
ピタッ
YOU...ARE YOU... GOING TO TAKE MY BRAIN NEXT?
IF I COULD, I WOULD HAVE ALREADY. I CAN'T. I MATURED BEFORE I COULD EAT YOUR BRAIN. SUCH A SHAME.

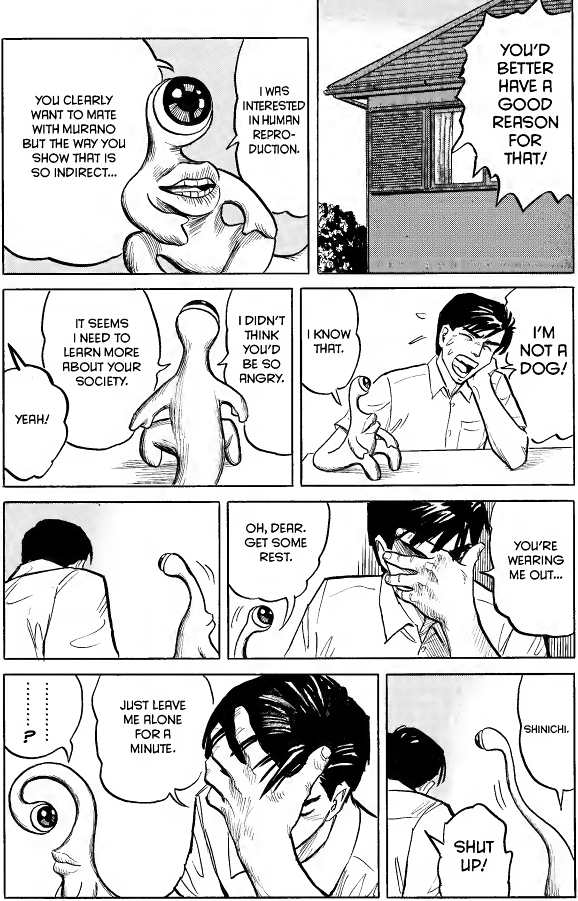

OH! IZUMI-KUN'S TALKING TO HIMSELF.
EW, GROSS
WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HAD GRABBED MY BRAIN?
I'D HAVE BECOME SOMETHING LIKE A HUMAN, BUT WITH A TRANSFORMING HEAD.
SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK...
I LOVE EASILY SURPRISED PEOPLE.
I SHOULD SCARE HIM AGAIN.
WOW! TSUKAHARA BOKUDEN!
CHOP!!
SNAG

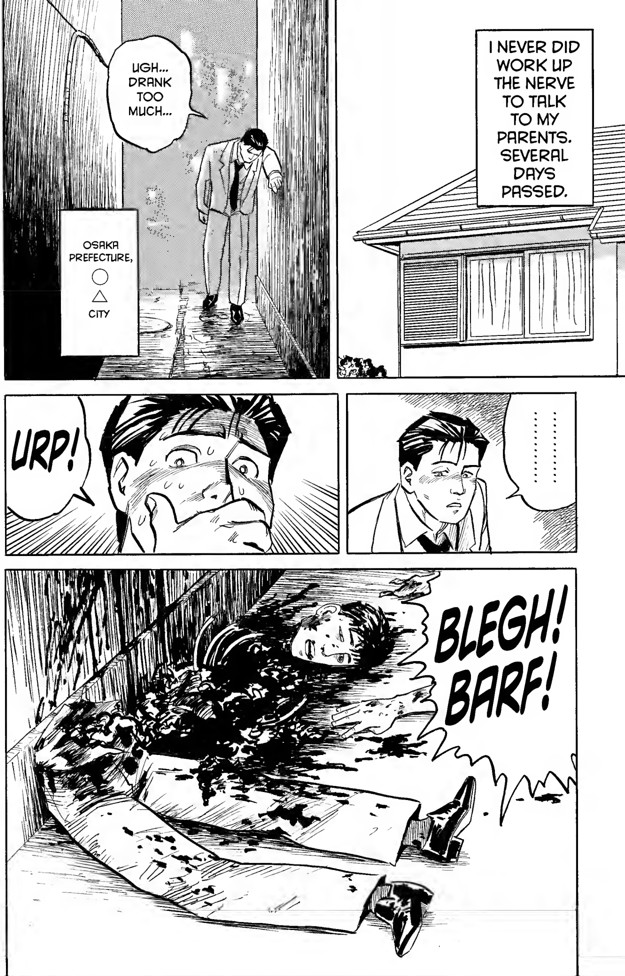

EH?
AHH! MURANO!
TOO LATE NOW.
?
YOU TALK, I CUT YOU OFF, GOT IT?
IZUMI-KUUUUUUN...
YOU OKAY?
YEAH?
YEAH, FINE.
SAY... ARE YOU HUNGRY?
NO, BUT I AM A LITTLE THIRSTY.
WEIRD... I'VE GOT A HUGE APPETITE TODAY.
!
OH...IS IT THE EYEBALL'S FAULT?
McDonald

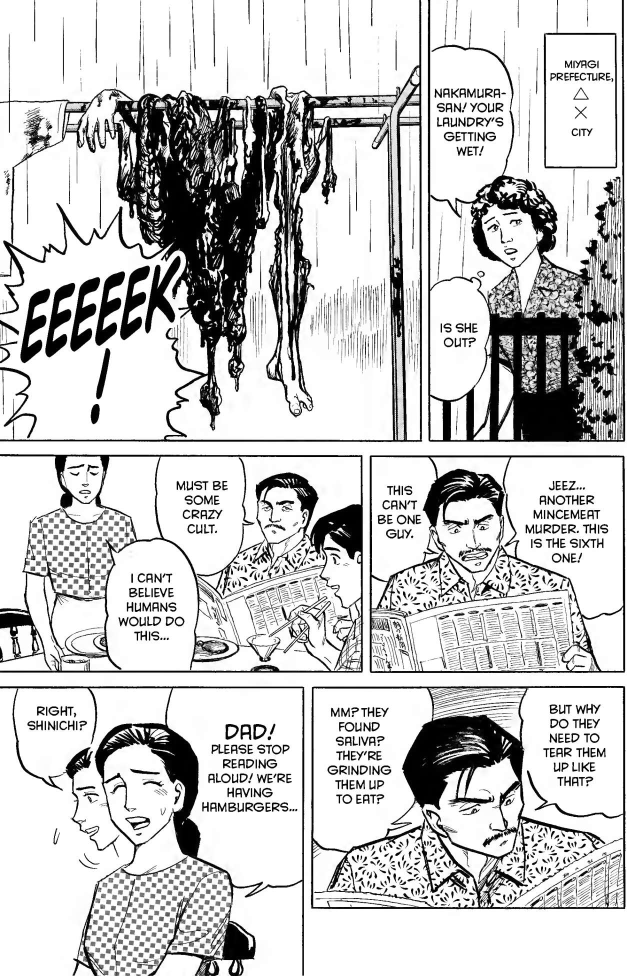

MUNCH MUNCH
AUGH... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IF SHE...
IF SHE KNEW ABOUT THE THING IN MY HAND, SHE'D BE FREAKED.
MURANO, YOU LIKE ANIMALS?
SURE I DO.
EXCEPT FOR SNAKES.
BBBB.
IF...JUST SUPPOSING PART OF MY BODY...
......
AAAAAUG-GHH!

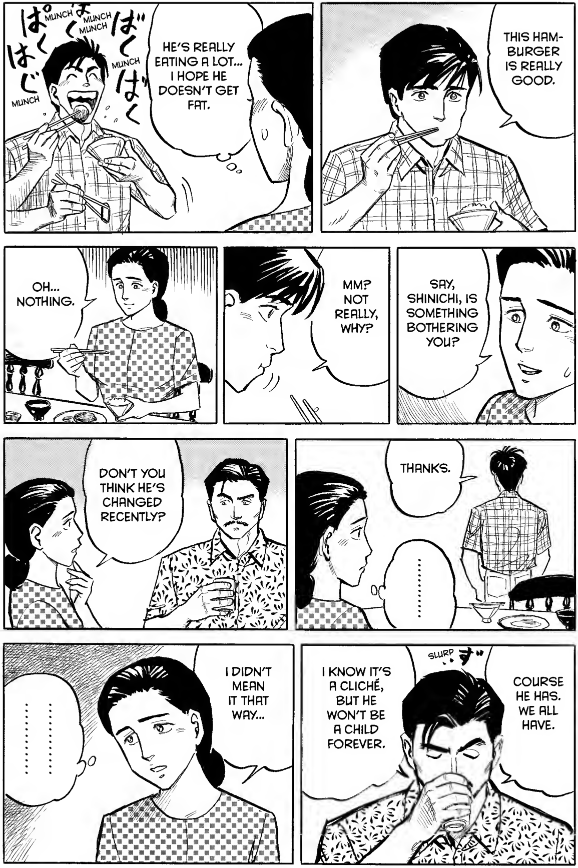

……
……!?
...JUST... FINE.
I'M...
I'M FINE!
NEVER MIND!
IZUMI-KUN.
MM?
EXPRESS TICKETS, MONTHLY PASSES →
入口
BYE.
MM.

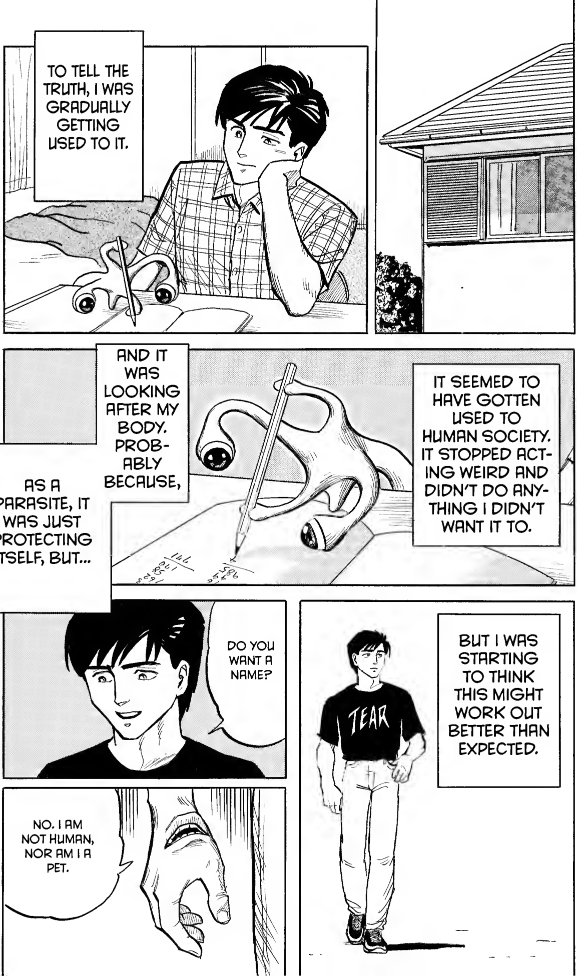

YOU ARE... IZUMI SHINICHI-KUN...
RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
OF COURSE I AM!
....
....

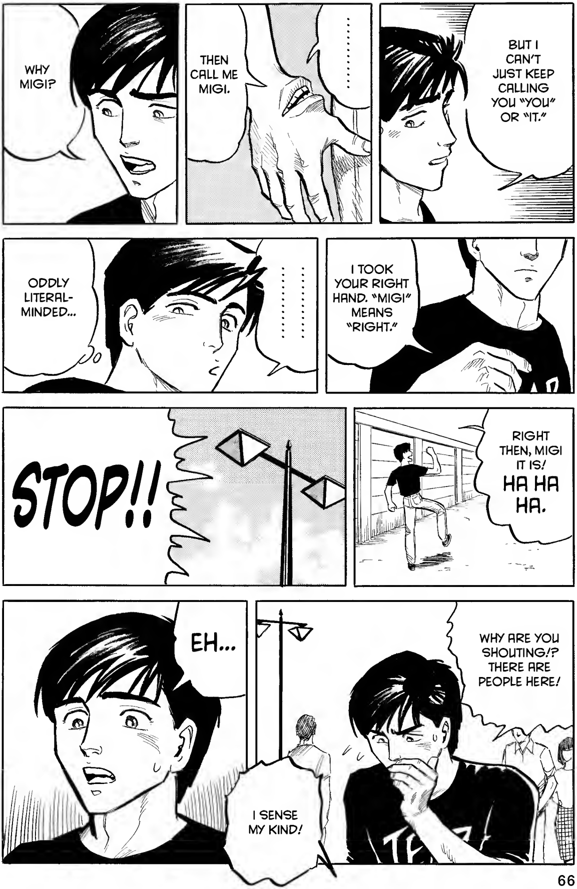

YOU'D BETTER HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR THAT!
I WAS INTERESTED IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION.
YOU CLEARLY WANT TO MATE WITH MURANO BUT THE WAY YOU SHOW THAT IS SO INDIRECT...
I'M NOT A DOG!
I KNOW THAT.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE SO ANGRY.
IT SEEMS I NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY.
YEAH!
YOU'RE WEARING ME OUT...
OH, DEAR. GET SOME REST.
SHINICHI.
SHUT UP!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A MINUTE.
……?

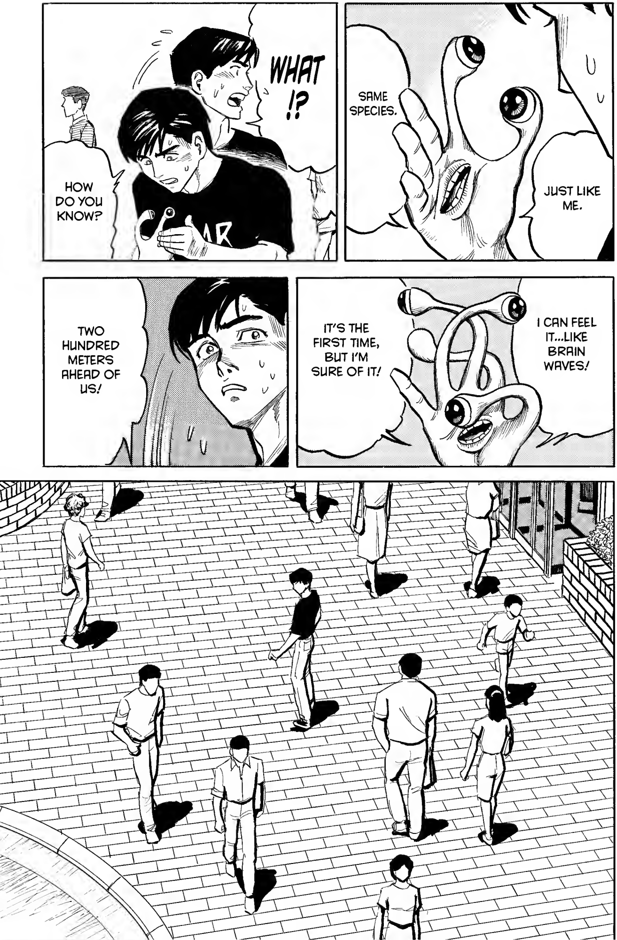

I NEVER DID WORK UP THE NERVE TO TALK TO MY PARENTS. SEVERAL DAYS PASSED.
UGH... DRANK TOO MUCH...
OSAKA PREFECTURE, ○ △ CITY
......
URP!
BLEGH! BARF!

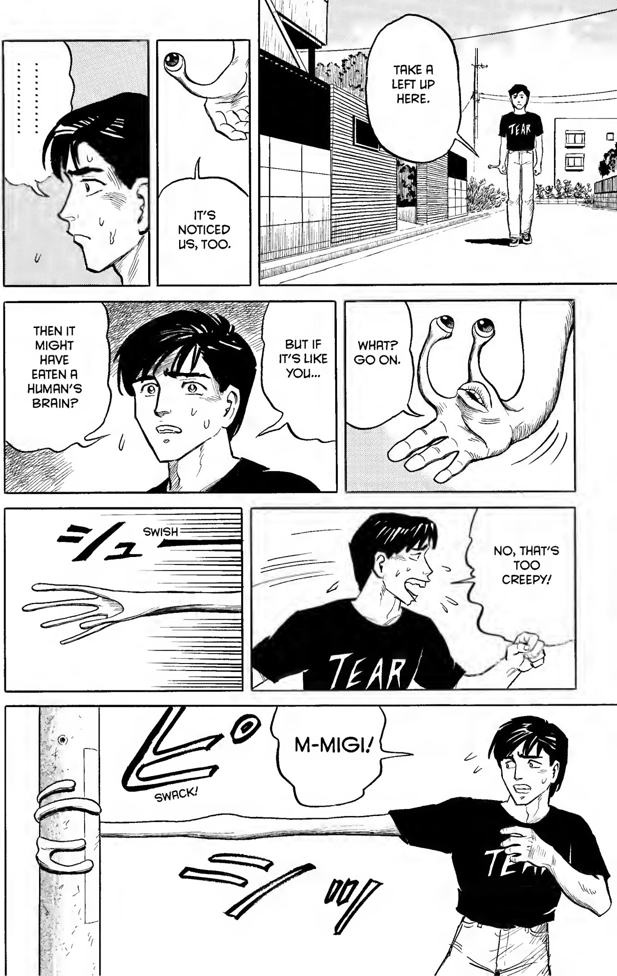

MIYAGI PREFECTURE, △ × CITY
NAKAMURA-SAN! YOUR LAUNDRY'S GETTING WET!
IS SHE OUT?
EEEEEK!
JEEZ... ANOTHER MINCEMEAT MURDER. THIS IS THE SIXTH ONE!
THIS CAN'T BE ONE GUY.
MUST BE SOME CRAZY CULT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HUMANS WOULD DO THIS...
BUT WHY DO THEY NEED TO TEAR THEM UP LIKE THAT?
MM? THEY FOUND SALIVA? THEY'RE GRINDING THEM UP TO EAT?
DAD! PLEASE STOP READING ALOUD! WE'RE HAVING HAMBURGERS...
RIGHT, SHINICHI?

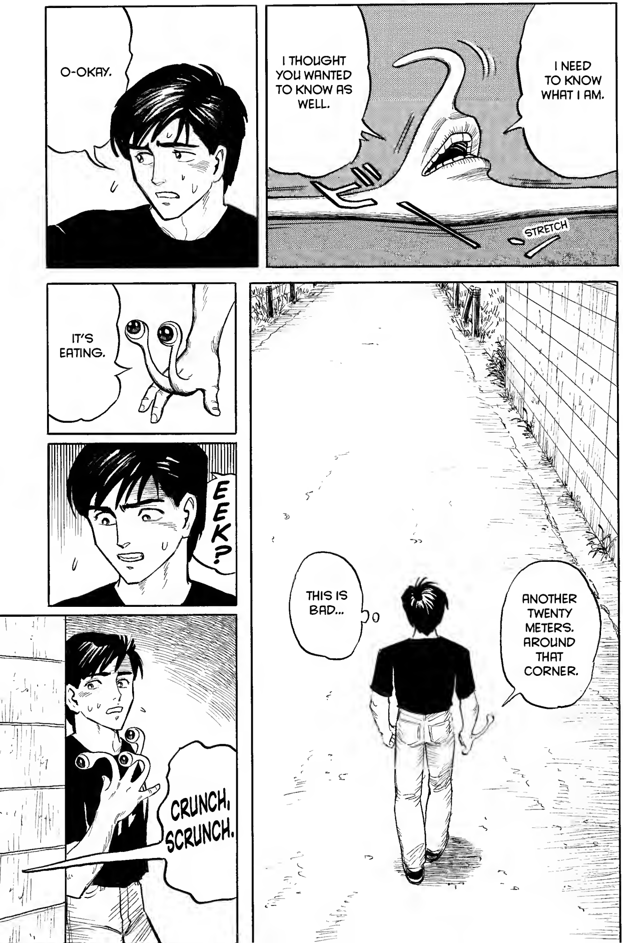

THIS HAMBURGER IS REALLY GOOD.
ばく ばく
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
ぱく はぐ
HE'S REALLY EATING A LOT... I HOPE HE DOESN'T GET FAT.
SAY, SHINICHI, IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
MM? NOT REALLY, WHY?
OH... NOTHING.
THANKS.
....
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S CHANGED RECENTLY?
COURSE HE HAS. WE ALL HAVE.
ず SLURP
I KNOW IT'S A CLICHÉ, BUT HE WON'T BE A CHILD FOREVER.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY...
....
....

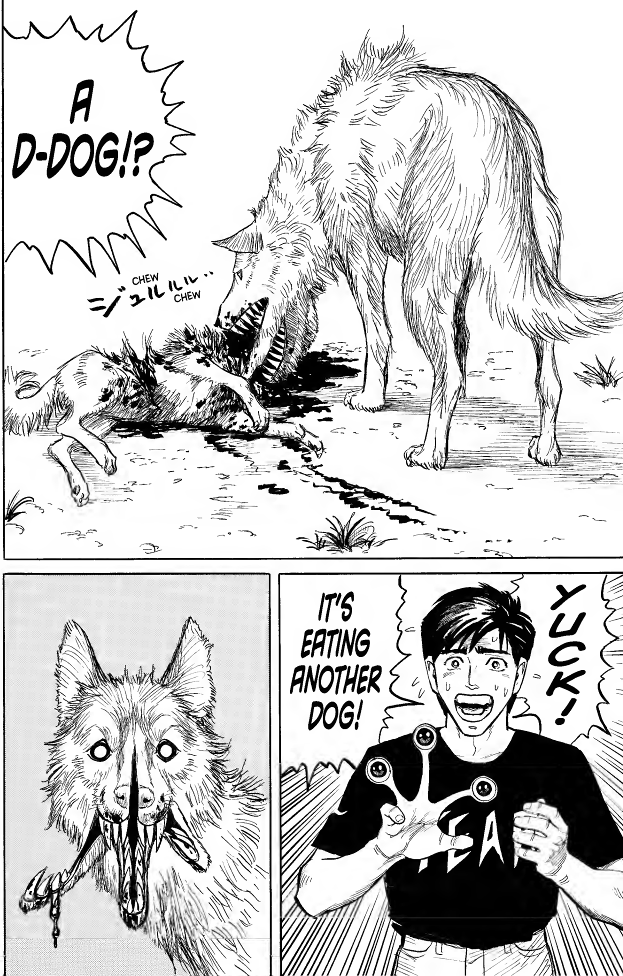

TO TELL THE TRUTH, I WAS GRADUALLY GETTING USED TO IT.
IT SEEMED TO HAVE GOTTEN USED TO HUMAN SOCIETY. IT STOPPED ACTING WEIRD AND DIDN'T DO ANYTHING I DIDN'T WANT IT TO.
AND IT WAS LOOKING AFTER MY BODY. PROBABLY BECAUSE,
AS A PARASITE, IT WAS JUST PROTECTING ITSELF, BUT...
DO YOU WANT A NAME?
NO. I AM NOT HUMAN, NOR AM I A PET.
BUT I WAS STARTING TO THINK THIS MIGHT WORK OUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED.
TEAR

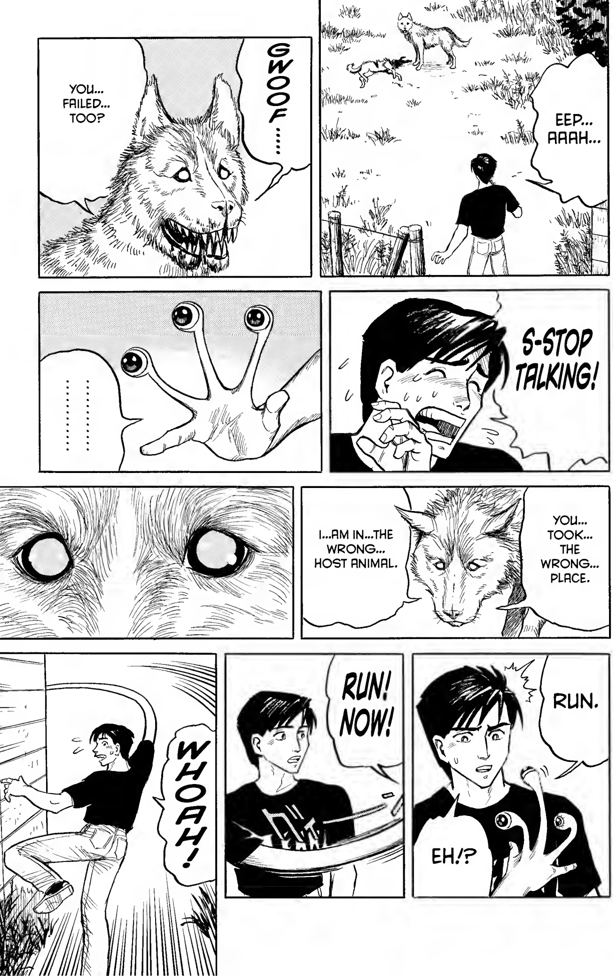

BUT I CAN'T JUST KEEP CALLING YOU "YOU" OR "IT."
THEN CALL ME MIGI.
......
WHY MIGI?
I TOOK YOUR RIGHT HAND. "MIGI" MEANS "RIGHT."
......
ODDLY LITERAL-MINDED...
RIGHT THEN, MIGI IT IS! HA HA HA.
STOP!!
WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING!? THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE!
I SENSE MY KIND!
EH...

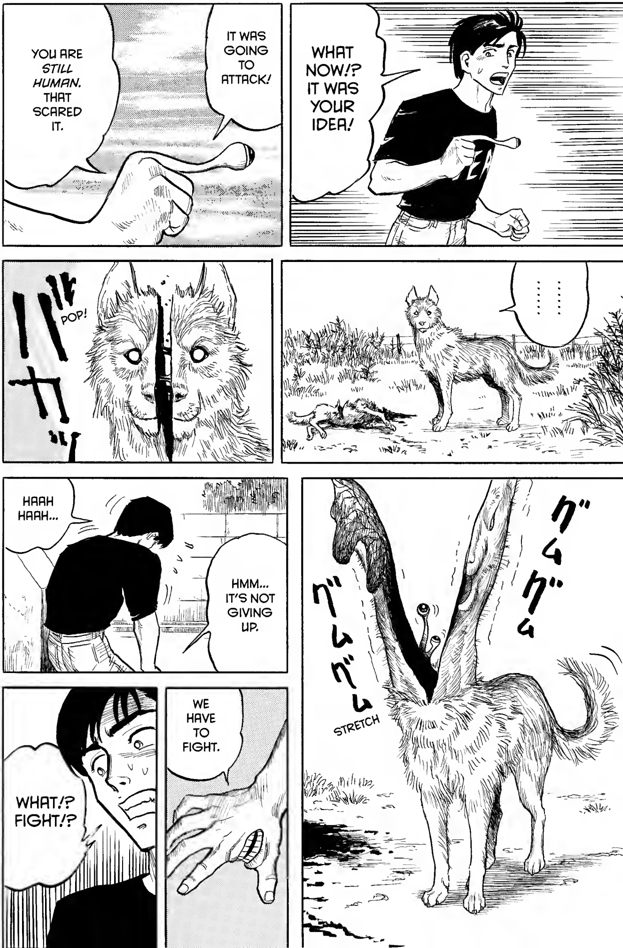

WHAT !?
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
SAME SPECIES.
JUST LIKE ME.
TWO HUNDRED METERS AHEAD OF US!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME, BUT I'M SURE OF IT!
I CAN FEEL IT...LIKE BRAIN WAVES!

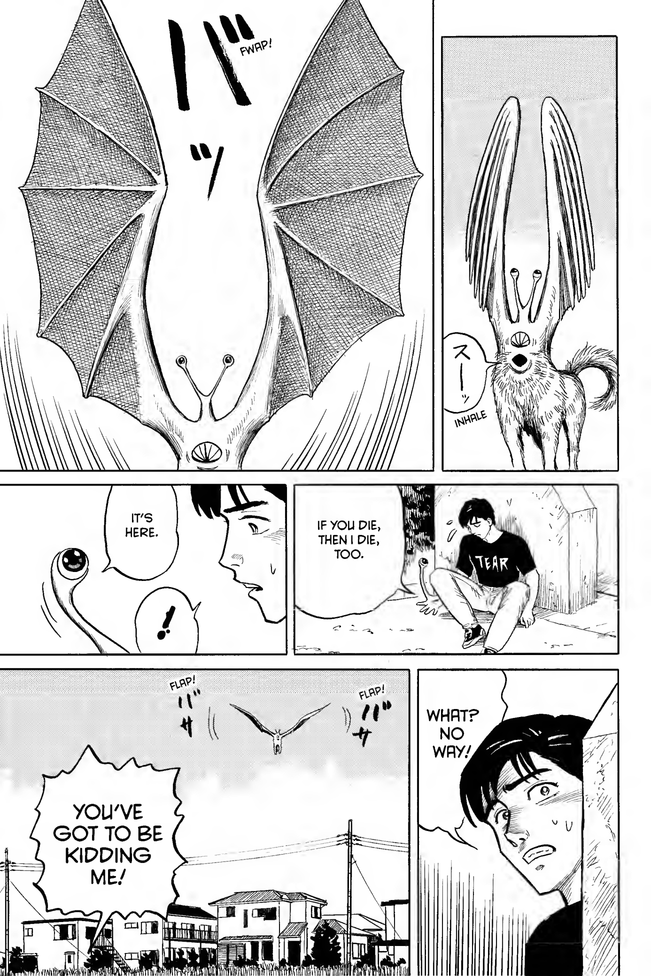

TAKE A LEFT UP HERE.
IT'S NOTICED US, TOO.
......
WHAT? GO ON.
BUT IF IT'S LIKE YOU...
THEN IT MIGHT HAVE EATEN A HUMAN'S BRAIN?
NO, THAT'S TOO CREEPY!
シュ
SWISH
TEAR
M-MIGI!
ピ
SWACK!
シュッ

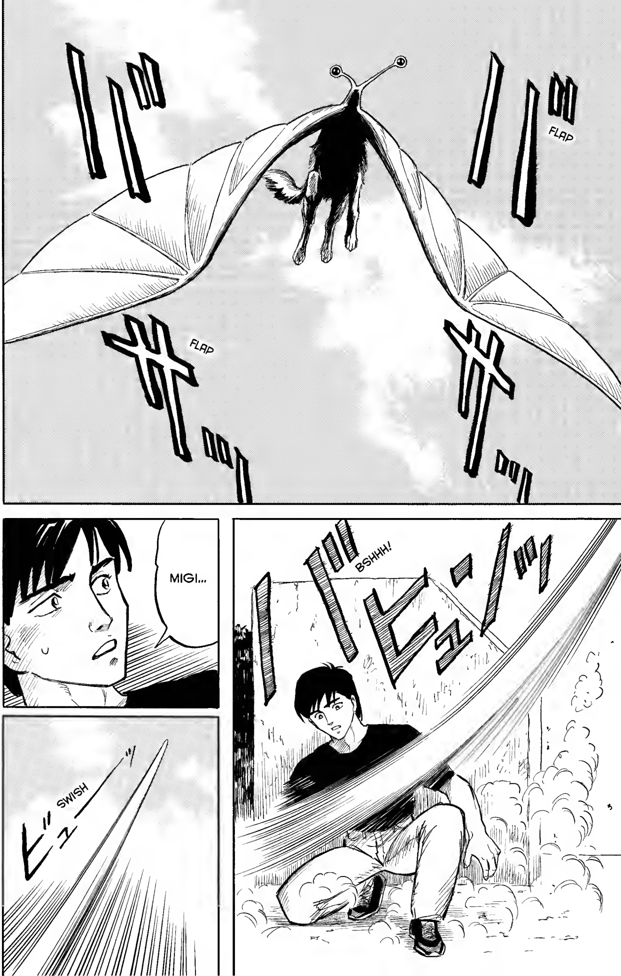

I NEED TO KNOW WHAT I AM.
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO KNOW AS WELL.
STRETCH
O-OKAY.
ANOTHER TWENTY METERS. AROUND THAT CORNER.
THIS IS BAD...
IT'S EATING.
EEK?
CRUNCH, SCRUNCH.

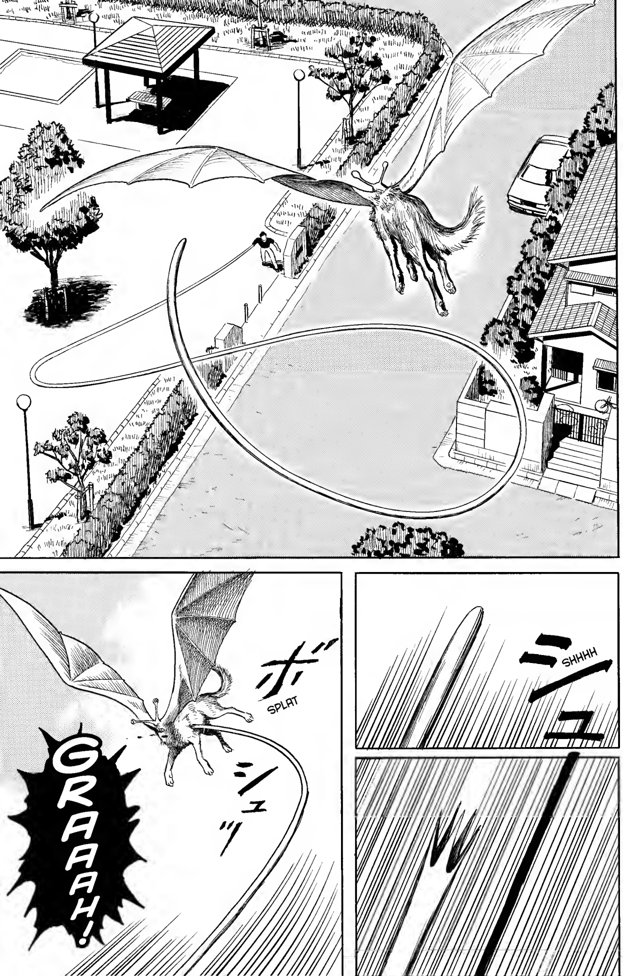

A D-DOG!?
ジュルルル‥
CHEW CHEW
YUCK!
IT'S EATING ANOTHER DOG!

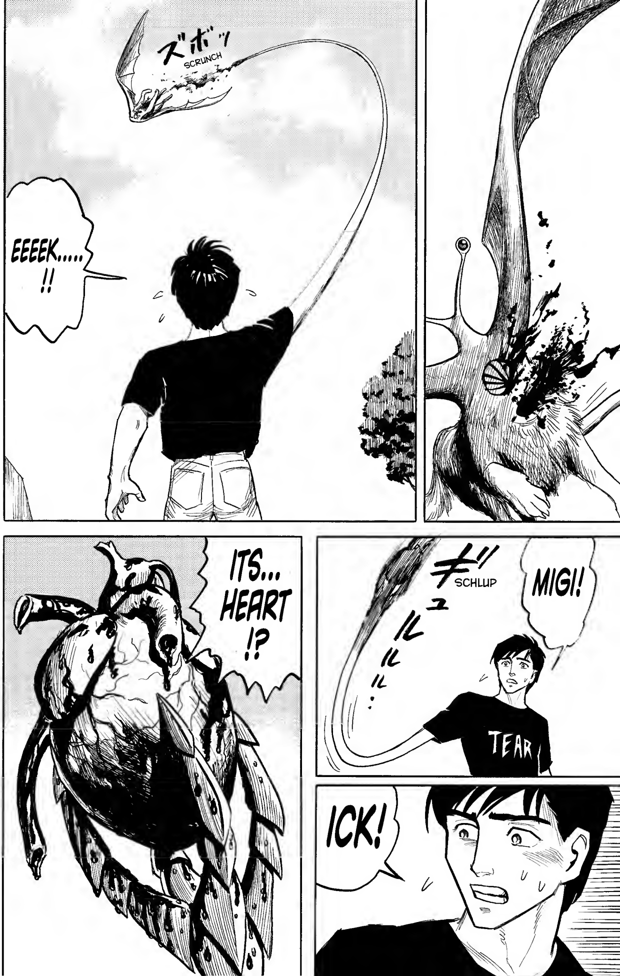

EEP... AAAH...
GWOOF.....
YOU... FAILED... TOO?
S-STOP TALKING!
......
YOU... TOOK... THE WRONG... PLACE.
I...AM IN...THE WRONG... HOST ANIMAL.
RUN.
EH!?
RUN! NOW!
WHOAH!

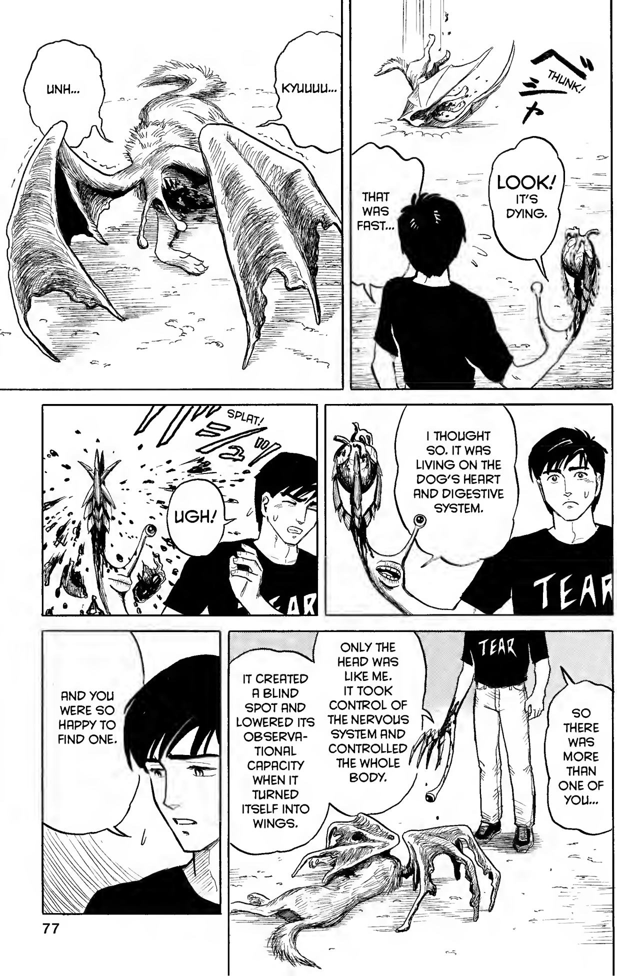

WHAT NOW!? IT WAS YOUR IDEA!
IT WAS GOING TO ATTACK!
YOU ARE *STILL HUMAN.* THAT SCARED IT.
……
バカッ
POP!
HAAH HAAH...
HMM... IT'S NOT GIVING UP.
グムグム
グムグム
STRETCH
WE HAVE TO FIGHT.
WHAT!? FIGHT!?

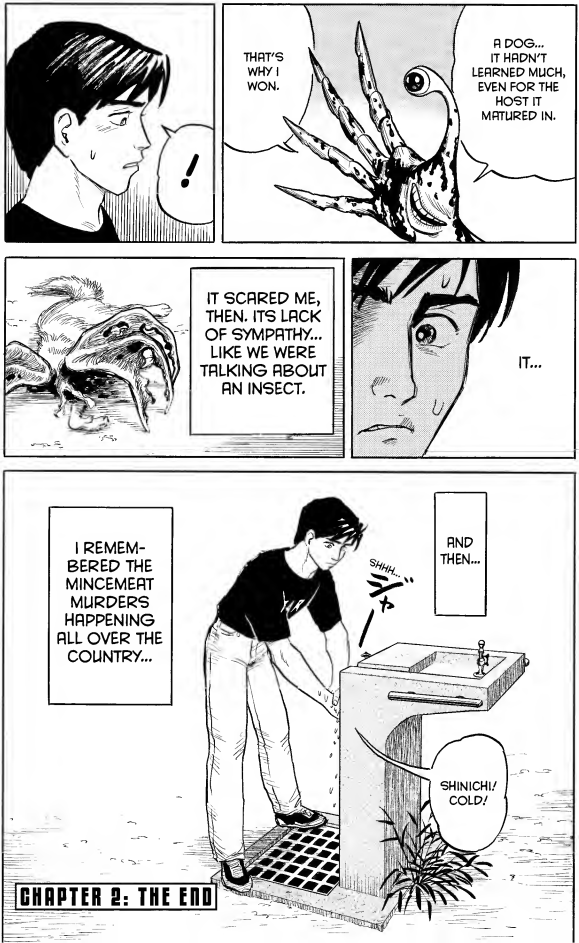

スーッ
INHALE
バッ
FWAP!
IF YOU DIE, THEN I DIE, TOO.
IT'S HERE.
!
WHAT? NO WAY!
バサ
FLAP!
バサ
FLAP!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!


バッ
FLAP
バッ
サッ
FLAP
サッ
バヒュッ
BSHHH!
MIGI...
ビュ
SWISH

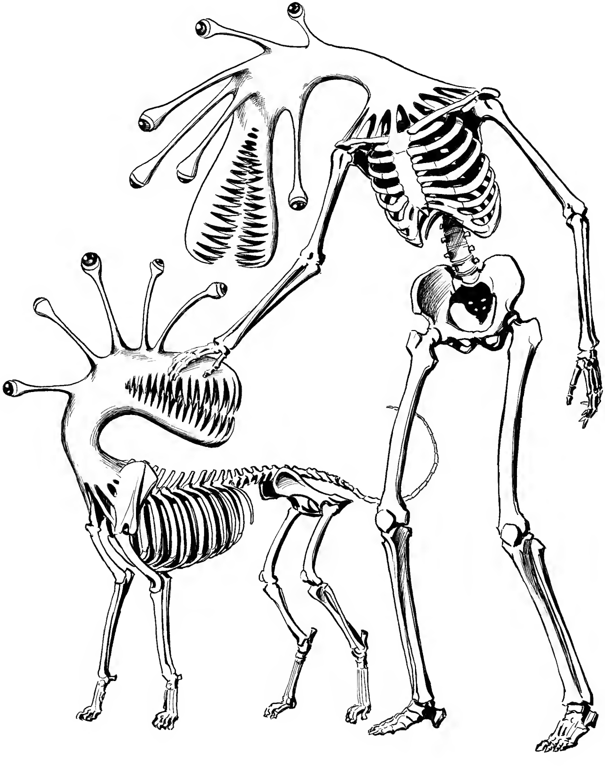

シュ
SHHHH
ボ
SPLAT
シュッ
GRAAAAH!

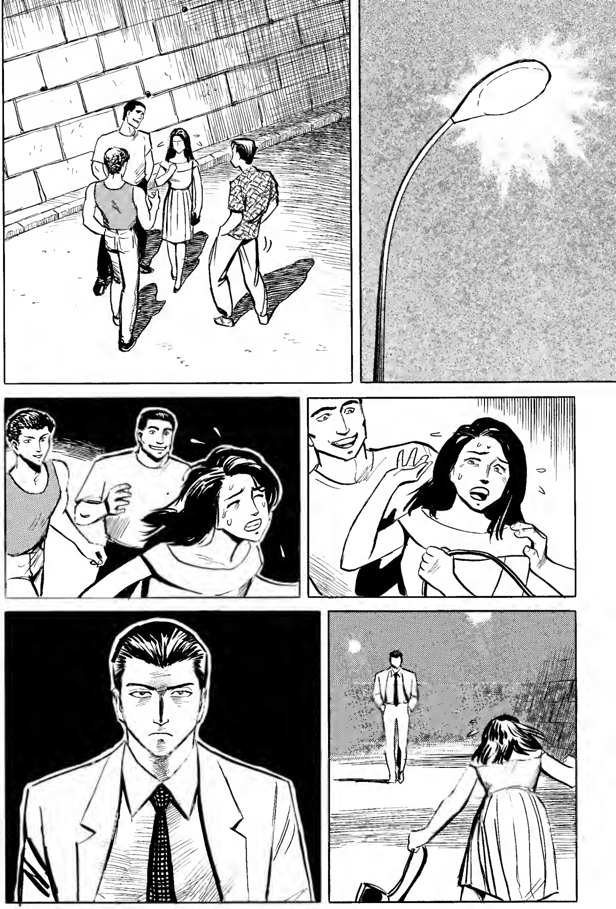

ズボッ
SCRUNCH
EEEEK.....!!
ギュルルル..
SCHLUP
MIGI!
TEAR
ICK!
ITS... HEART!?

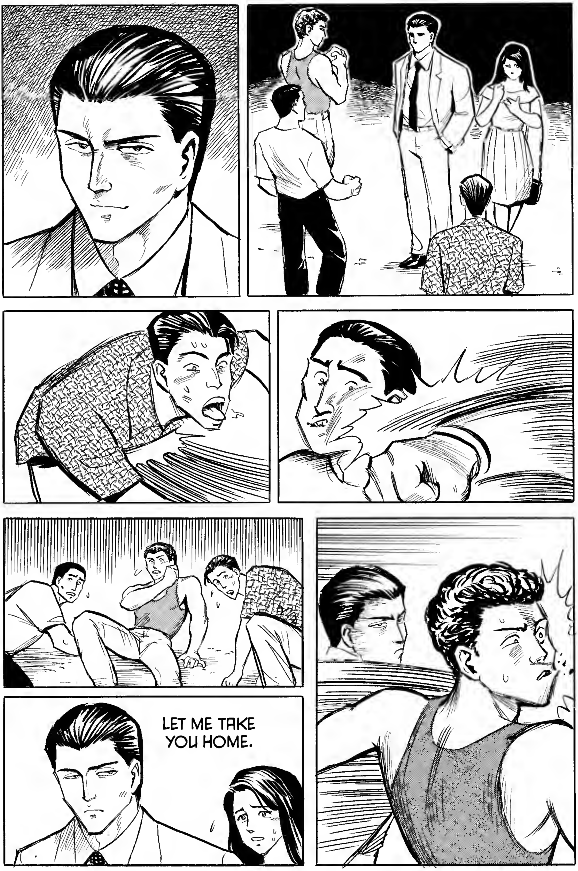

ベシャ
THUNK!
LOOK! IT'S DYING.
THAT WAS FAST...
KYUUUU...
UNH...
I THOUGHT SO. IT WAS LIVING ON THE DOG'S HEART AND DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.
SPLAT!
UGH!
TEAR
SO THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE OF YOU...
ONLY THE HEAD WAS LIKE ME. IT TOOK CONTROL OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND CONTROLLED THE WHOLE BODY.
IT CREATED A BLIND SPOT AND LOWERED ITS OBSERVATIONAL CAPACITY WHEN IT TURNED ITSELF INTO WINGS.
AND YOU WERE SO HAPPY TO FIND ONE.

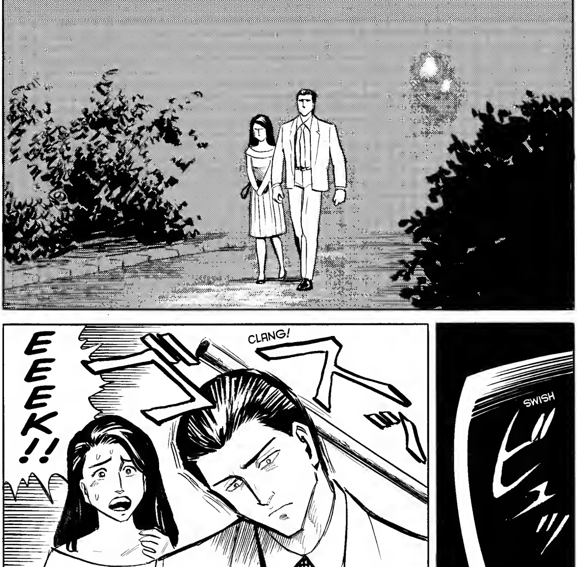

A DOG... IT HADN'T LEARNED MUCH, EVEN FOR THE HOST IT MATURED IN.
THAT'S WHY I WON.
!
IT...
IT SCARED ME, THEN. ITS LACK OF SYMPATHY... LIKE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT AN INSECT.
AND THEN...
I REMEMBERED THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY...
SHHH...
ジャー
SHINICHI! COLD!
CHAPTER 2: THE END

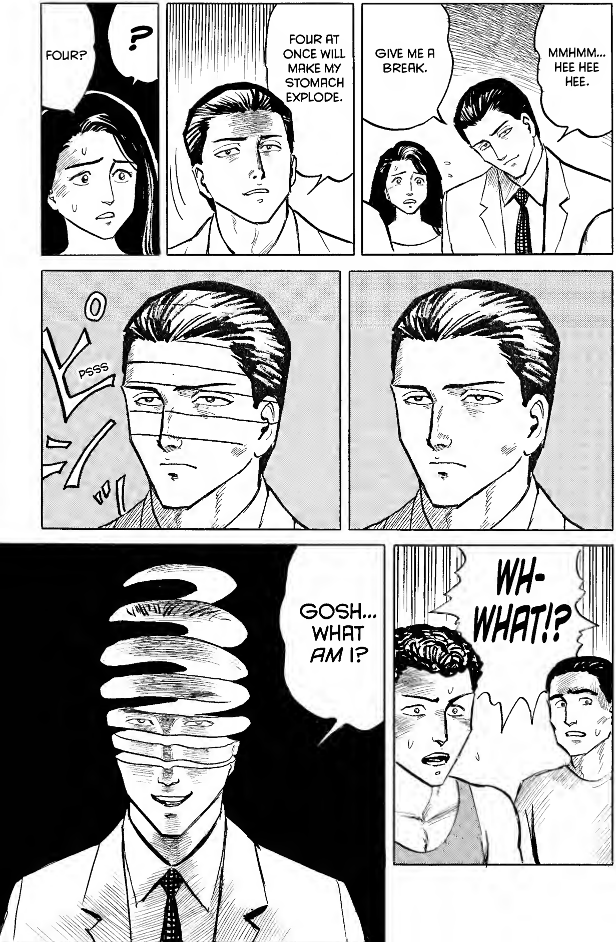
CHAPTER 3: CONTACT

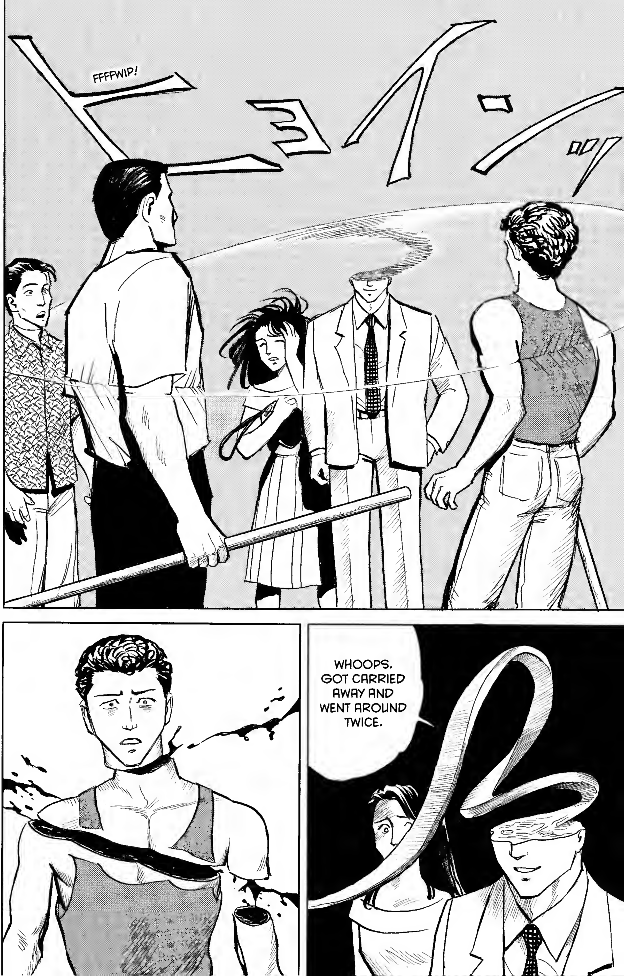


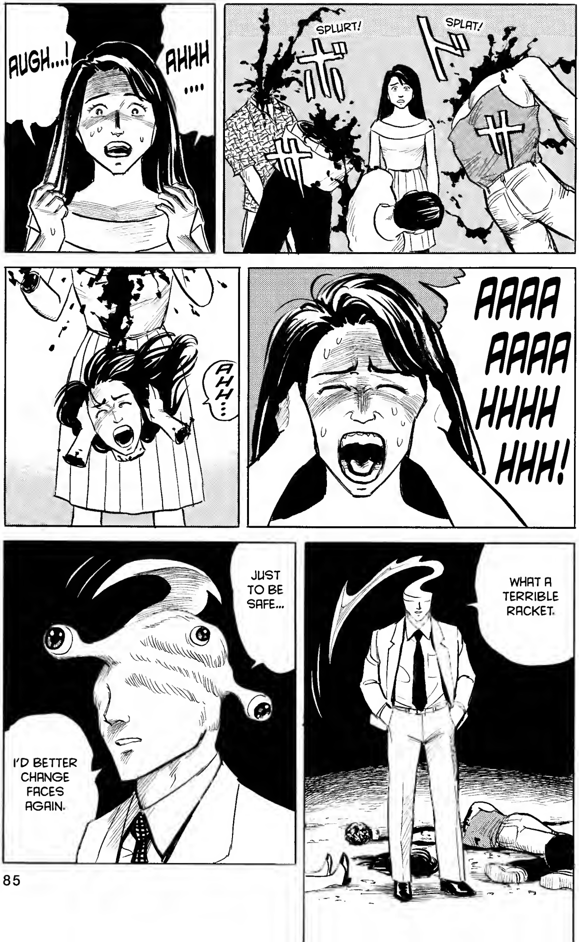


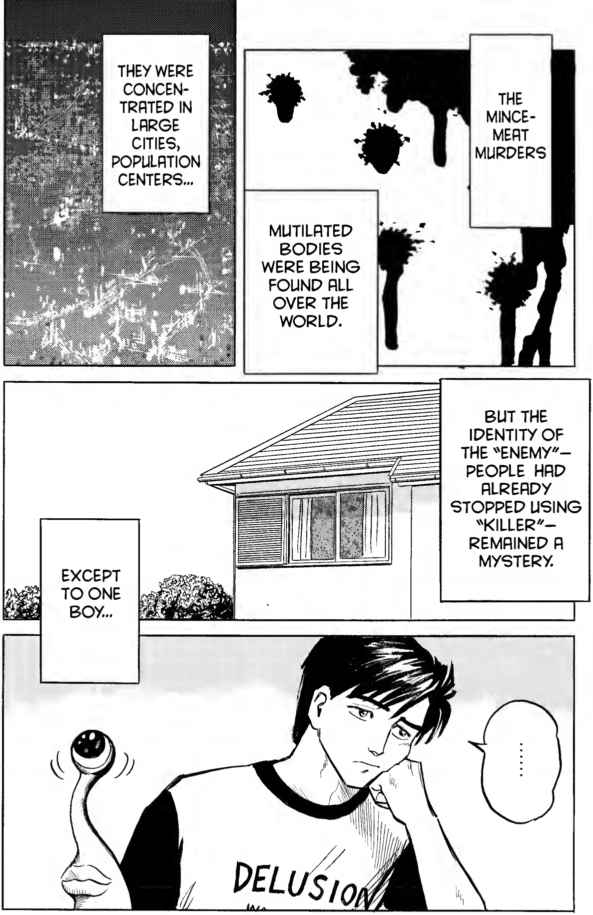

LET ME TAKE YOU HOME.

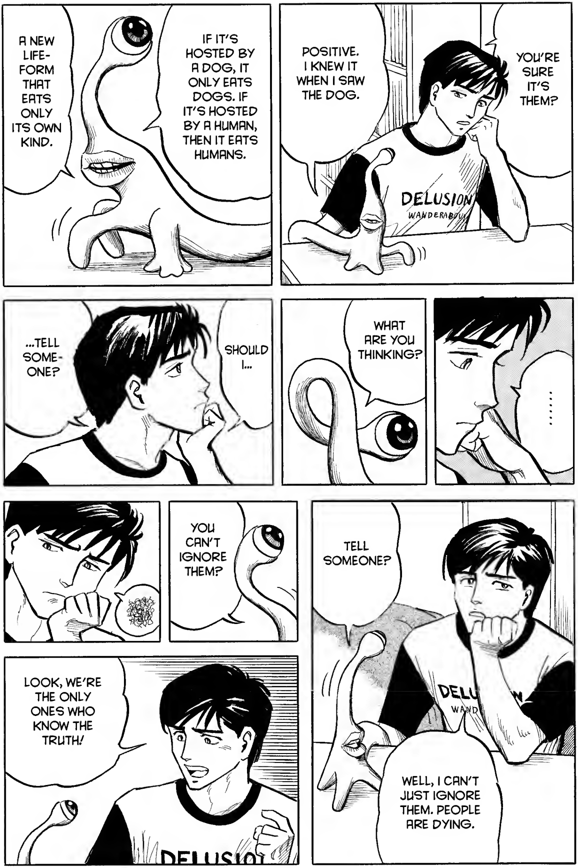

SWISH
ビュッ
CLANG!
ゴスッ
EEEK!!
HEH HEH... PAYBACK'S A BITCH.

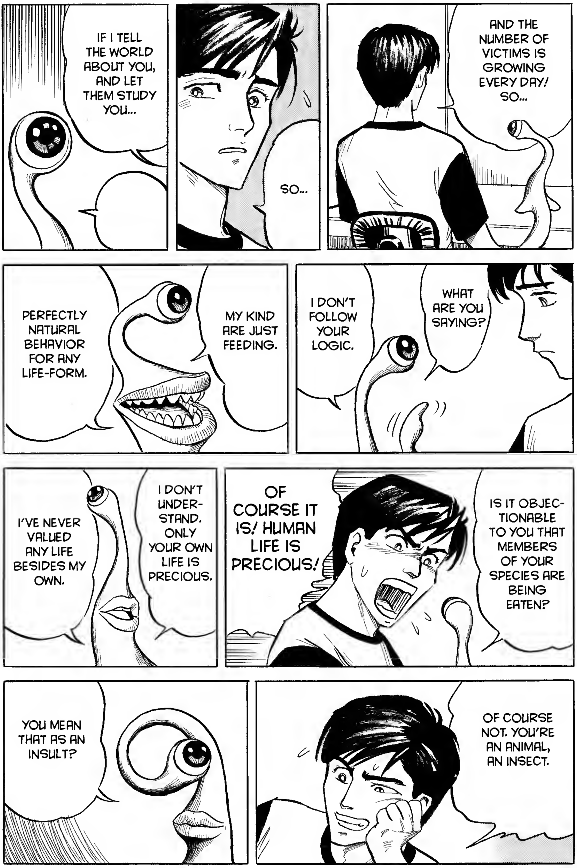

FOUR?
?
FOUR AT ONCE WILL MAKE MY STOMACH EXPLODE.
GIVE ME A BREAK.
MMHMM... HEE HEE HEE.
PSSS
GOSH... WHAT *AM* I?
WH- WHAT!?

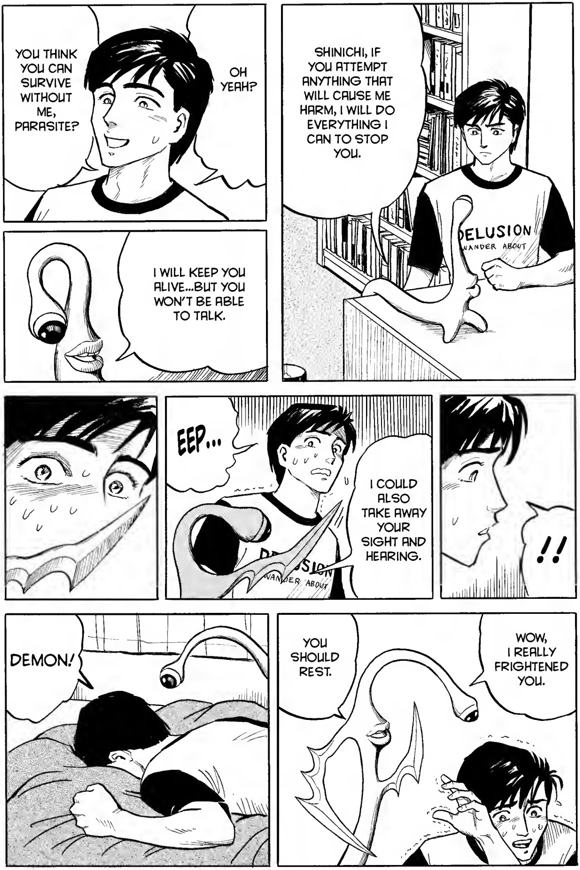

FFFFWIP!
WHOOPS. GOT CARRIED AWAY AND WENT AROUND TWICE.

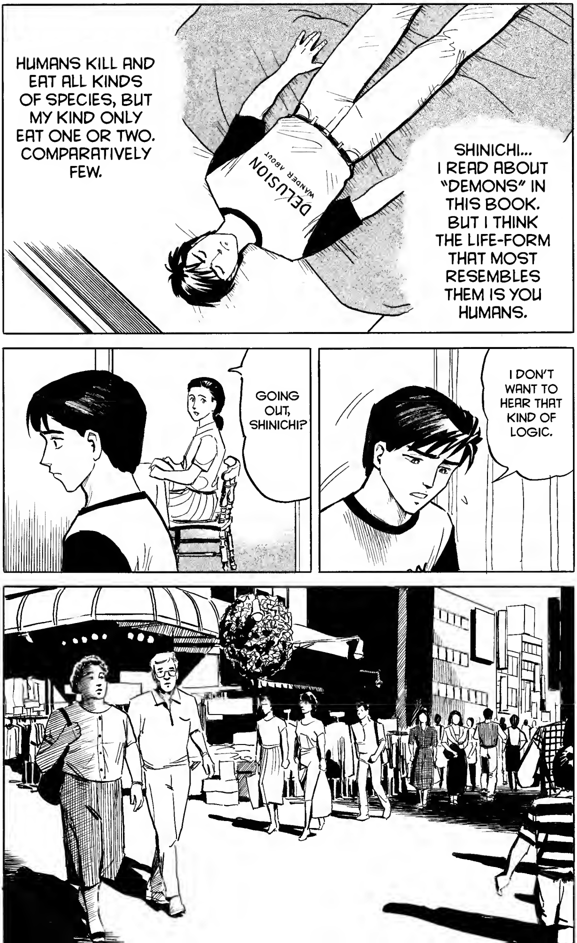

SPLAT!
ド
SPLURT!
ボ
ザ
ザ
AUGH...!
AHHH ....
AAAA AAAA HHHH HHH!
AHH...
WHAT A TERRIBLE RACKET.
JUST TO BE SAFE...
I'D BETTER CHANGE FACES AGAIN.

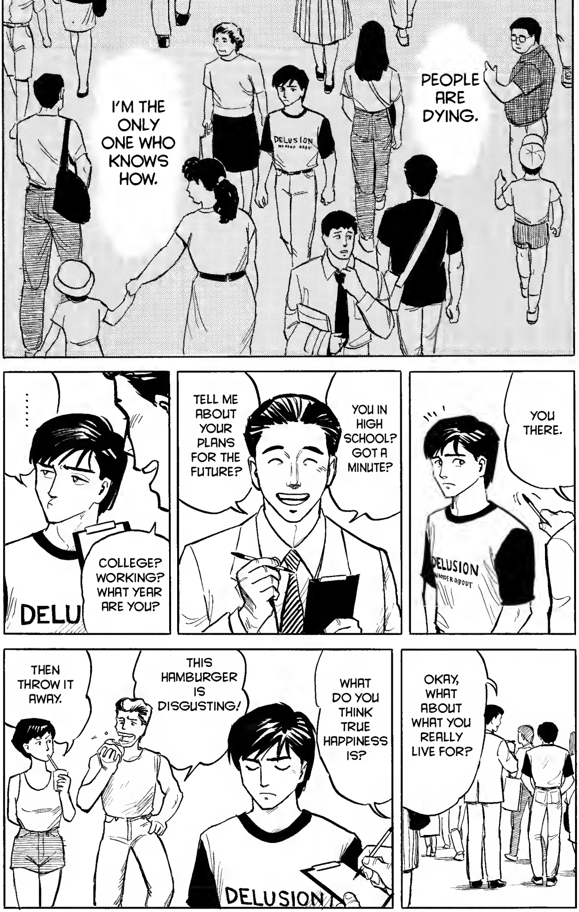

THEY WERE CONCENTRATED IN LARGE CITIES, POPULATION CENTERS...
THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS
MUTILATED BODIES WERE BEING FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD.
BUT THE IDENTITY OF THE "ENEMY"— PEOPLE HAD ALREADY STOPPED USING "KILLER"— REMAINED A MYSTERY.
EXCEPT TO ONE BOY...
......
DELUSION

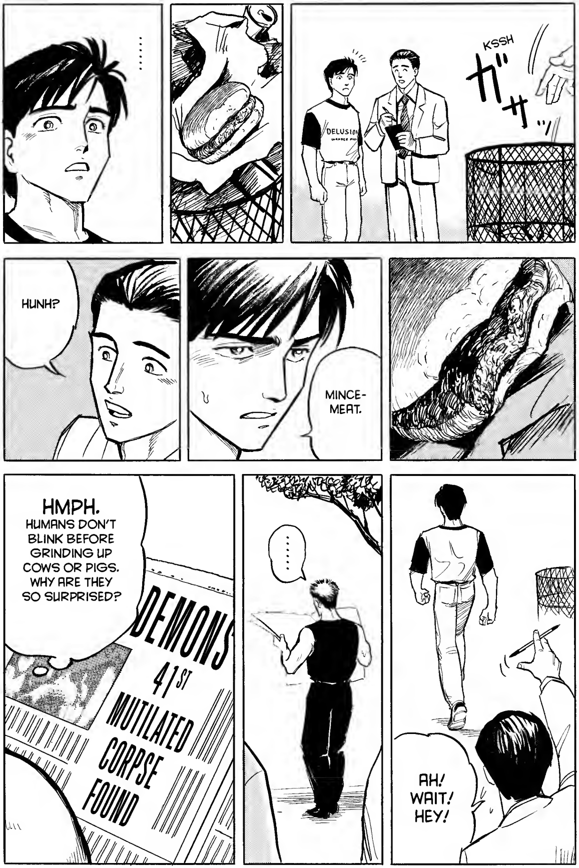

A NEW LIFE-FORM THAT EATS ONLY ITS OWN KIND.
IF IT'S HOSTED BY A DOG, IT ONLY EATS DOGS. IF IT'S HOSTED BY A HUMAN, THEN IT EATS HUMANS.
YOU'RE SURE IT'S THEM?
POSITIVE. I KNEW IT WHEN I SAW THE DOG.
DELUSION
WANDERABOU
SHOULD I...
...TELL SOMEONE?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
......
YOU CAN'T IGNORE THEM?
TELL SOMEONE?
WELL, I CAN'T JUST IGNORE THEM. PEOPLE ARE DYING.
LOOK, WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THE TRUTH!

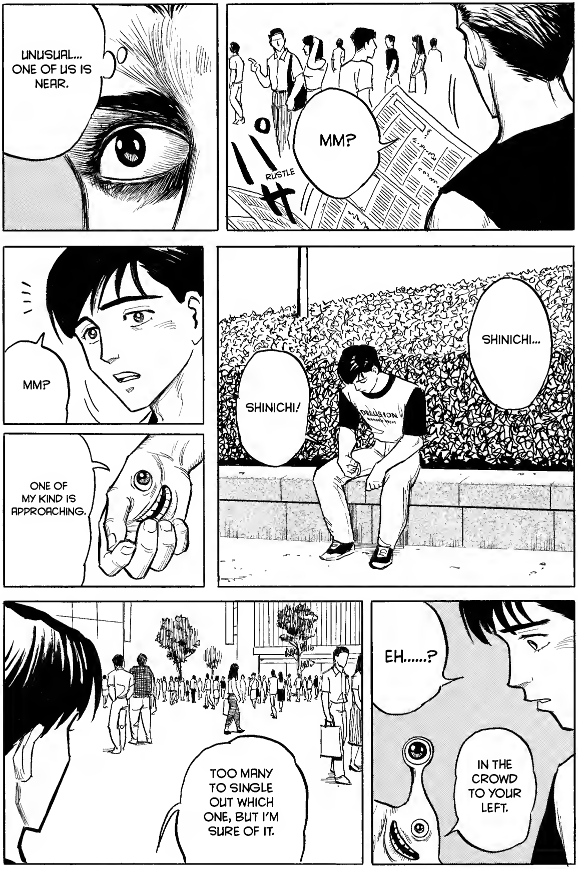

AND THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS IS GROWING EVERY DAY! SO...
SO...
IF I TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOU, AND LET THEM STUDY YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I DON'T FOLLOW YOUR LOGIC.
MY KIND ARE JUST FEEDING.
PERFECTLY NATURAL BEHAVIOR FOR ANY LIFE-FORM.
IS IT OBJECTIONABLE TO YOU THAT MEMBERS OF YOUR SPECIES ARE BEING EATEN?
OF COURSE IT IS! HUMAN LIFE IS PRECIOUS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. ONLY YOUR OWN LIFE IS PRECIOUS.
I'VE NEVER VALUED ANY LIFE BESIDES MY OWN.
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE AN ANIMAL, AN INSECT.
YOU MEAN THAT AS AN INSULT?

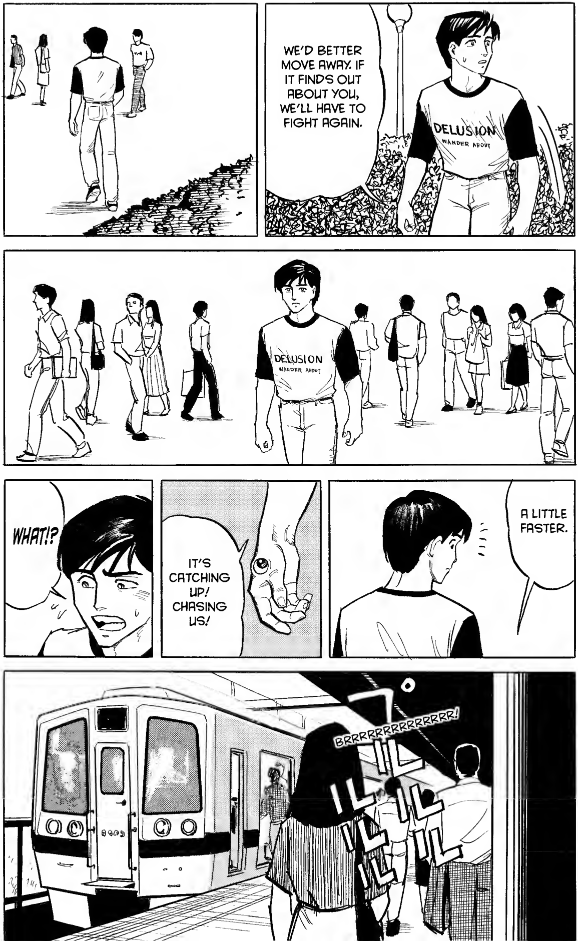

SHINICHI, IF YOU ATTEMPT ANYTHING THAT WILL CAUSE ME HARM, I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO STOP YOU.
DELUSION
WANDER ABOUT
OH YEAH?
YOU THINK YOU CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT ME, PARASITE?
I WILL KEEP YOU ALIVE...BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK.
!!
I COULD ALSO TAKE AWAY YOUR SIGHT AND HEARING.
EEP...
WOW, I REALLY FRIGHTENED YOU.
YOU SHOULD REST.
DEMON!

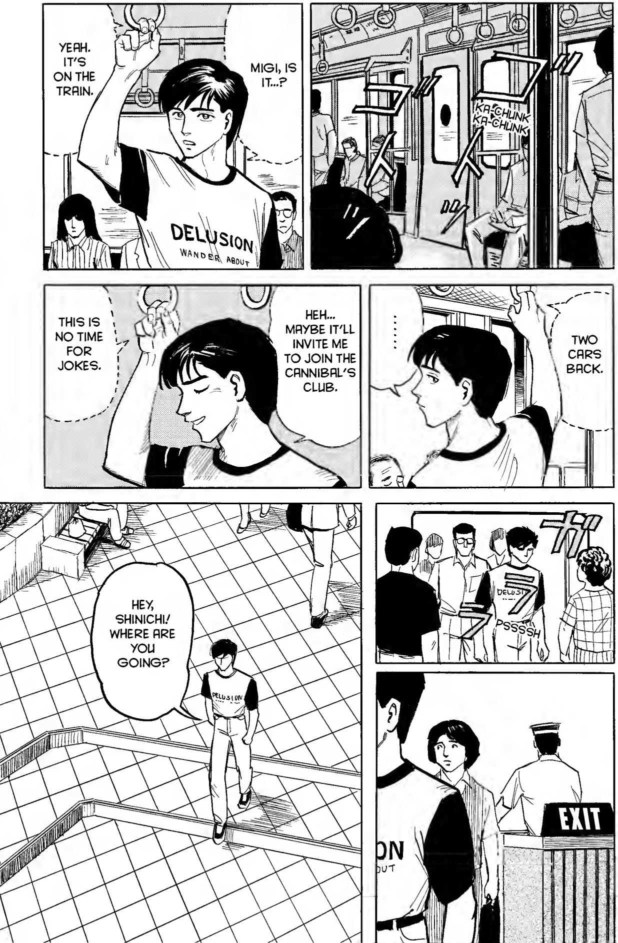

SHINICHI... I READ ABOUT "DEMONS" IN THIS BOOK. BUT I THINK THE LIFE-FORM THAT MOST RESEMBLES THEM IS YOU HUMANS.
HUMANS KILL AND EAT ALL KINDS OF SPECIES, BUT MY KIND ONLY EAT ONE OR TWO. COMPARATIVELY FEW.
DELUSION
WANDER ABOUT
GOING OUT, SHINICHI?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT KIND OF LOGIC.

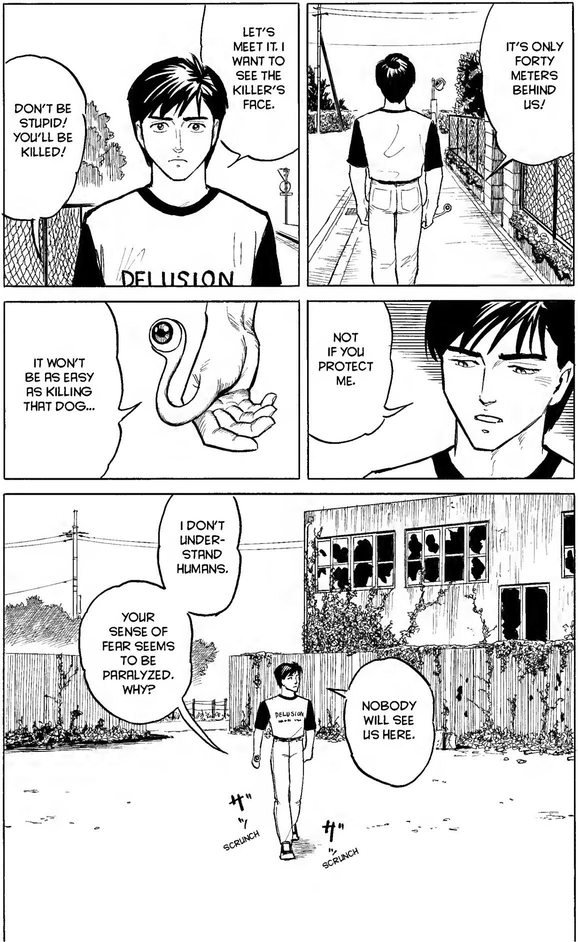

PEOPLE ARE DYING.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW.
DELUSION
YOU THERE.
YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL? GOT A MINUTE?
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?
......
COLLEGE? WORKING? WHAT YEAR ARE YOU?
OKAY, WHAT ABOUT WHAT YOU REALLY LIVE FOR?
WHAT DO YOU THINK TRUE HAPPINESS IS?
THIS HAMBURGER IS DISGUSTING!
THEN THROW IT AWAY.

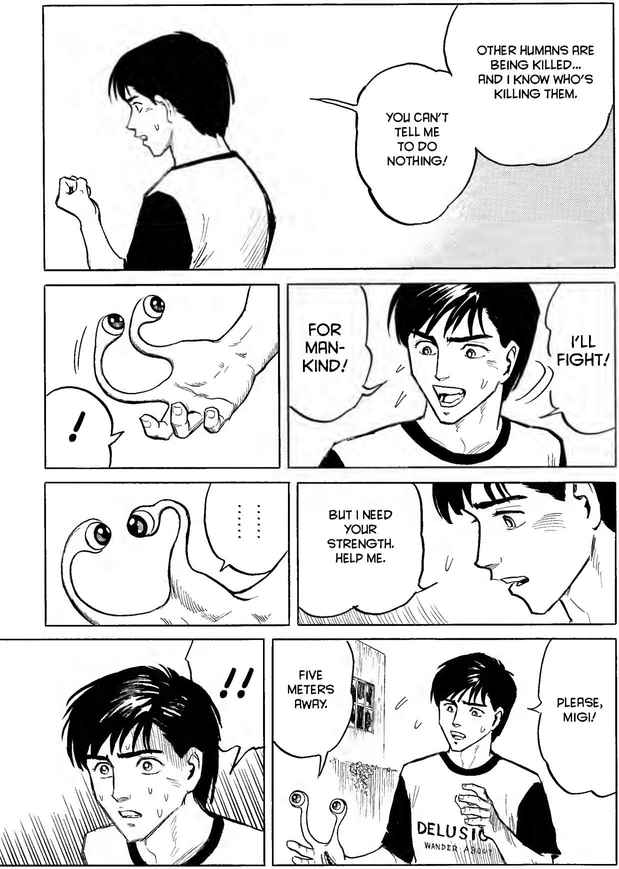

……
KSSH
ガサッ
DELUSION
HUNH?
MINCE-MEAT.
HMPH. HUMANS DON'T BLINK BEFORE GRINDING UP COWS OR PIGS. WHY ARE THEY SO SURPRISED?
DEMONS 41ST MUTILATED CORPSE FOUND
……
AH! WAIT! HEY!

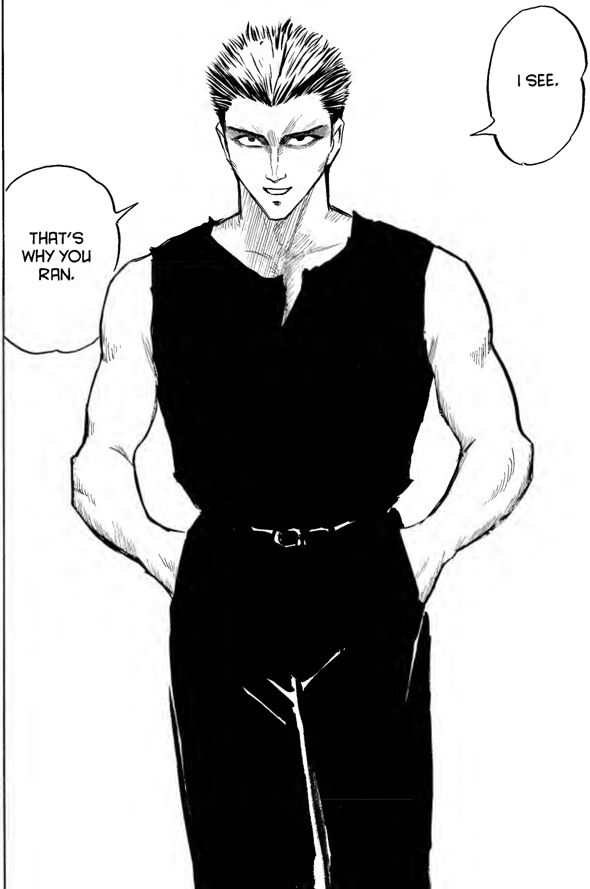

MM?
RUSTLE
UNUSUAL... ONE OF US IS NEAR.
SHINICHI...
SHINICHI!
MM?
ONE OF MY KIND IS APPROACHING.
EH......?
IN THE CROWD TO YOUR LEFT.
TOO MANY TO SINGLE OUT WHICH ONE, BUT I'M SURE OF IT.

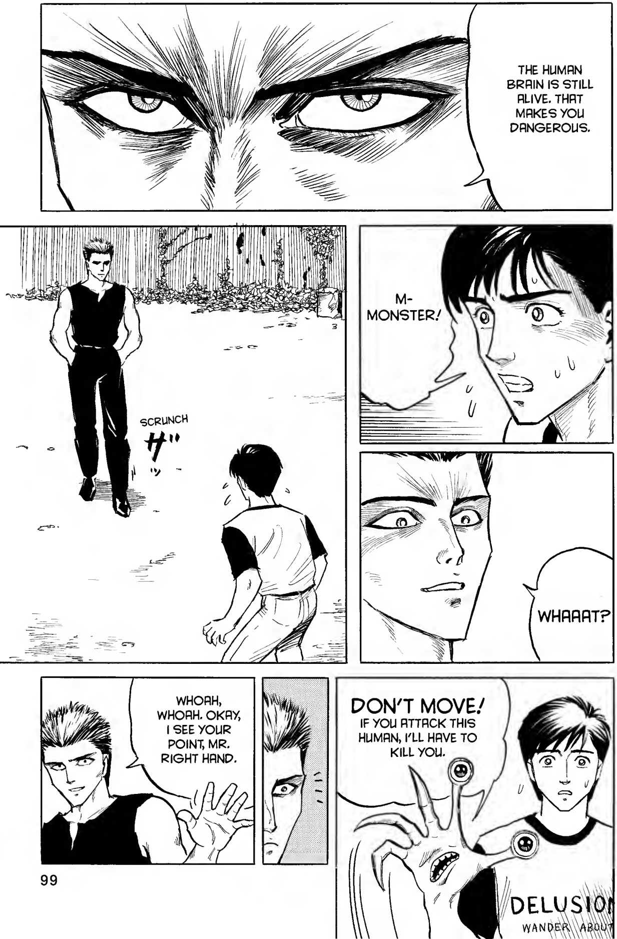

WE'D BETTER MOVE AWAY. IF IT FINDS OUT ABOUT YOU, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT AGAIN.
DELUSION
WANDER ABOUT
DELUSION
WANDER ABOUT
WHAT!?
IT'S CATCHING UP! CHASING US!
A LITTLE FASTER.
BRRRRRRRRRRRRRR!

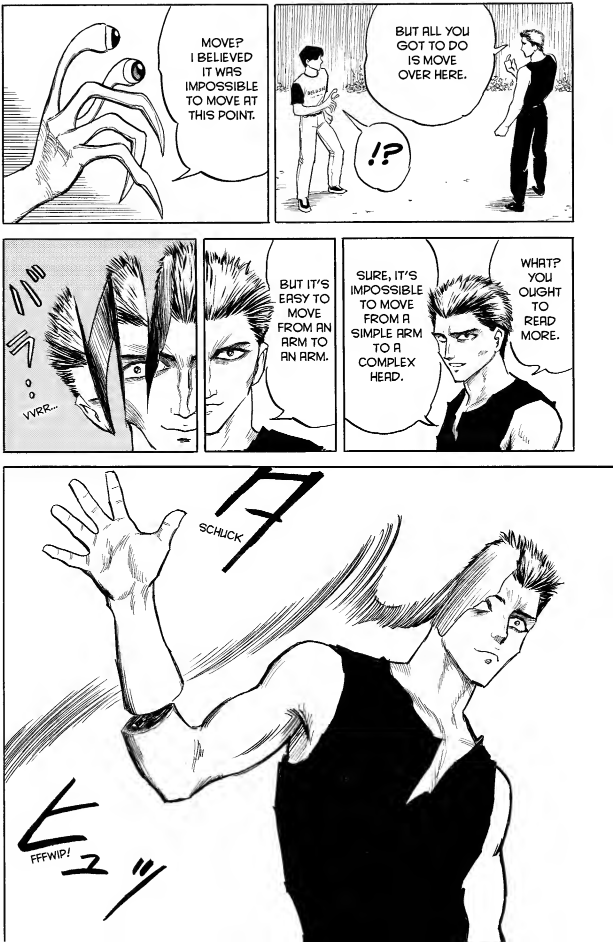
KA-CHUNK
KA-CHUNK
MIGI, IS IT...?
YEAH. IT'S ON THE TRAIN.
DELUSION
WANDER ABOUT
TWO CARS BACK.
......
HEH... MAYBE IT'LL INVITE ME TO JOIN THE CANNIBAL'S CLUB.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES.
PSSSSH
DELUSI
EXIT
ON
UT
HEY, SHINICHI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
DELUSION

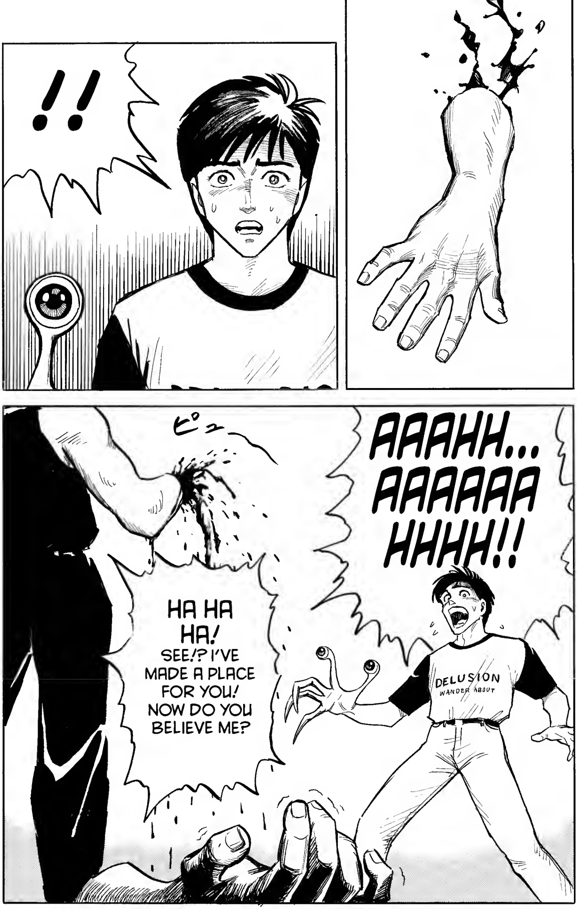

LET'S MEET IT. I WANT TO SEE THE KILLER'S FACE.
DON'T BE STUPID! YOU'LL BE KILLED!
DELUSION
IT'S ONLY FORTY METERS BEHIND US!
IT WON'T BE AS EASY AS KILLING THAT DOG...
NOT IF YOU PROTECT ME.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HUMANS.
YOUR SENSE OF FEAR SEEMS TO BE PARALYZED. WHY?
NOBODY WILL SEE US HERE.
DELUSION
ザッ
SCRUNCH
ザッ
SCRUNCH

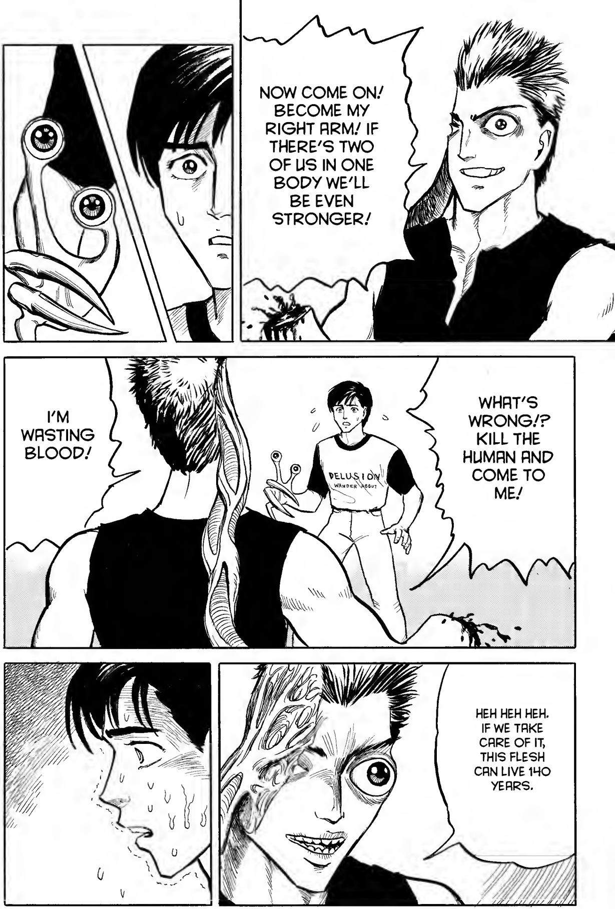

OTHER HUMANS ARE BEING KILLED... AND I KNOW WHO'S KILLING THEM.
YOU CAN'T TELL ME TO DO NOTHING!
!
FOR MAN-KIND!
I'LL FIGHT!
......
BUT I NEED YOUR STRENGTH. HELP ME.
!!
FIVE METERS AWAY.
PLEASE, MIGI!
DELUSI
WANDER ABOU

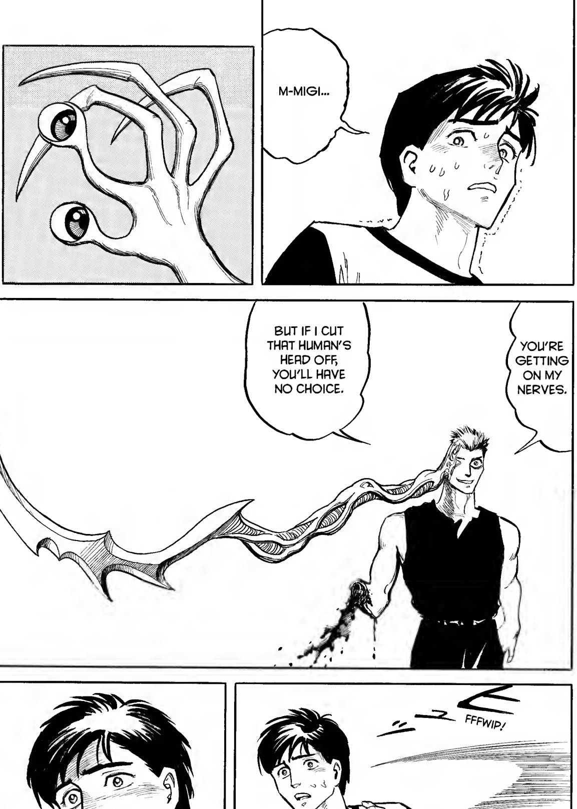

I SEE.
THAT'S WHY YOU RAN.

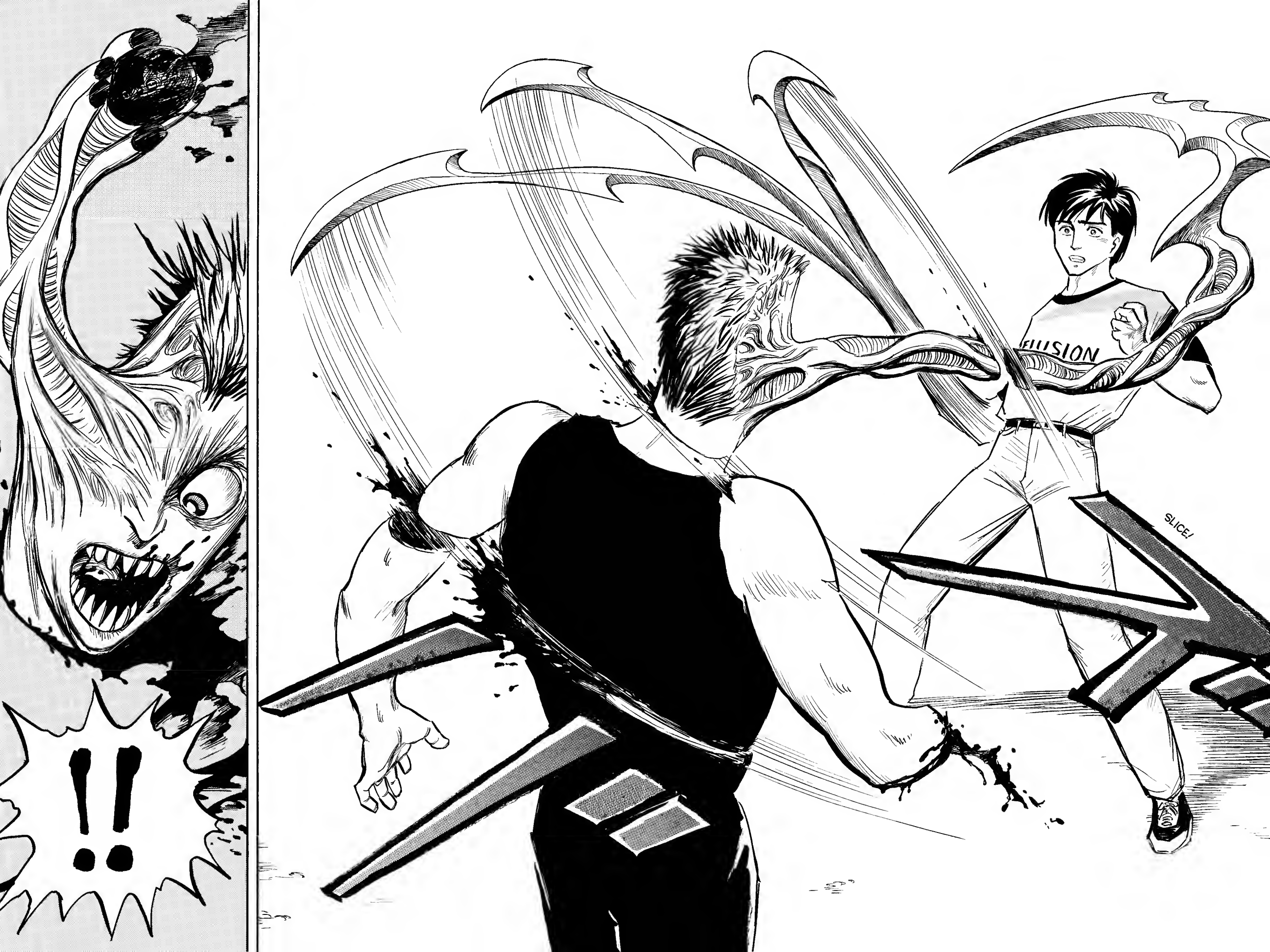

THE HUMAN BRAIN IS STILL ALIVE. THAT MAKES YOU DANGEROUS.
SCRUNCH
ザッ
M-MONSTER!
WHAAAT?
WHOAH, WHOAH. OKAY, I SEE YOUR POINT, MR. RIGHT HAND.
DON'T MOVE! IF YOU ATTACK THIS HUMAN, I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU.
DELUSIO
WANDER ABOU

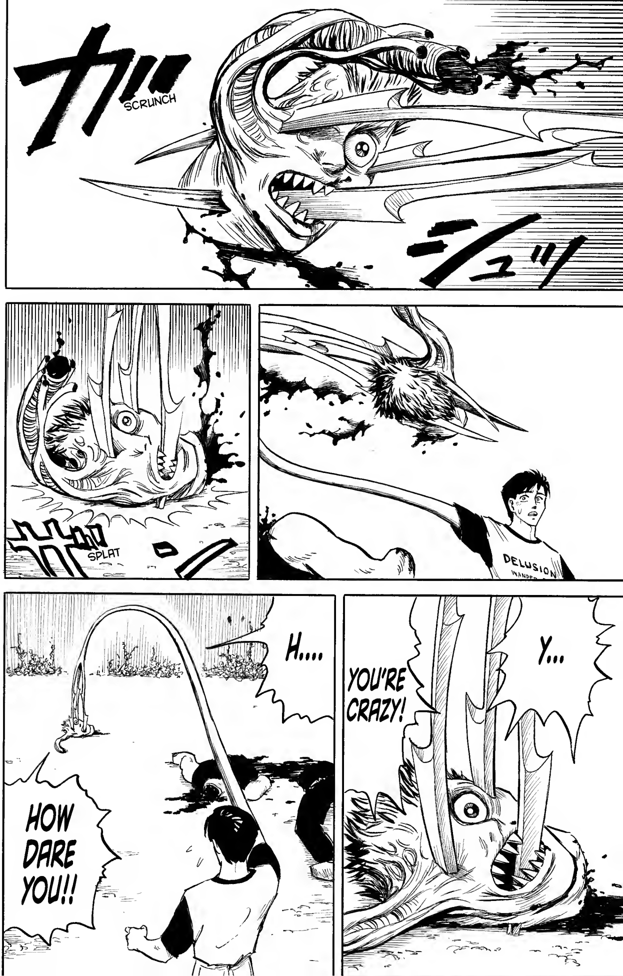

BUT ALL YOU GOT TO DO IS MOVE OVER HERE.
!?
DELUSIO
MOVE? I BELIEVED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE AT THIS POINT.
WHAT? YOU OUGHT TO READ MORE.
SURE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE FROM A SIMPLE ARM TO A COMPLEX HEAD.
BUT IT'S EASY TO MOVE FROM AN ARM TO AN ARM.
バラ
VVRR...
SCHUCK
ヒュッ
FFFWIP!

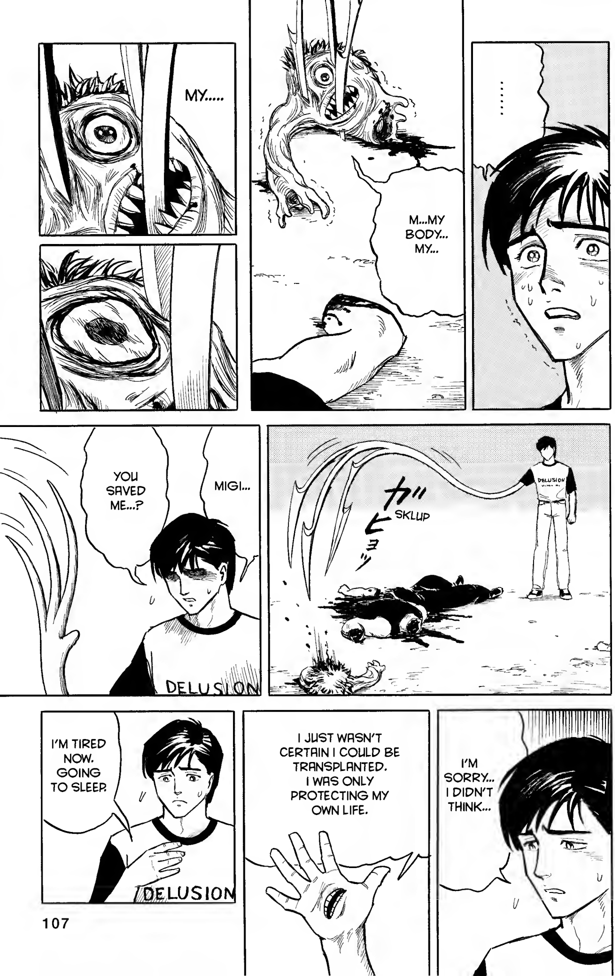

!!
AAAHH... AAAAAA HHHH!!
DELUSION
WANDER ABOUT
ピュ
HA HA HA! SEE!? I'VE MADE A PLACE FOR YOU! NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

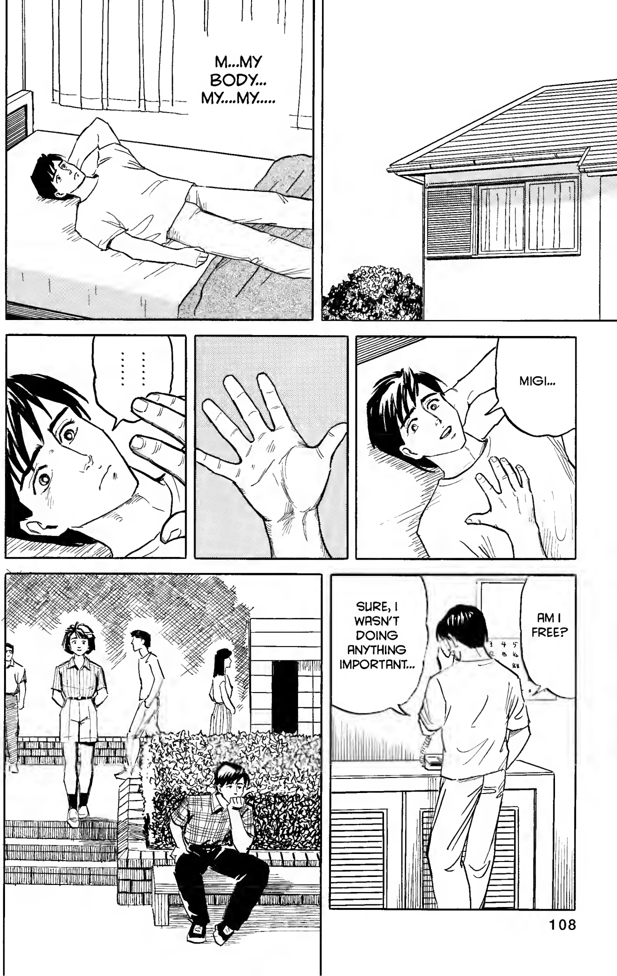

NOW COME ON! BECOME MY RIGHT ARM! IF THERE'S TWO OF US IN ONE BODY WE'LL BE EVEN STRONGER!
I'M WASTING BLOOD!
WHAT'S WRONG!? KILL THE HUMAN AND COME TO ME!
DELUSION WANDER ABOUT
HEH HEH HEH. IF WE TAKE CARE OF IT, THIS FLESH CAN LIVE 140 YEARS.

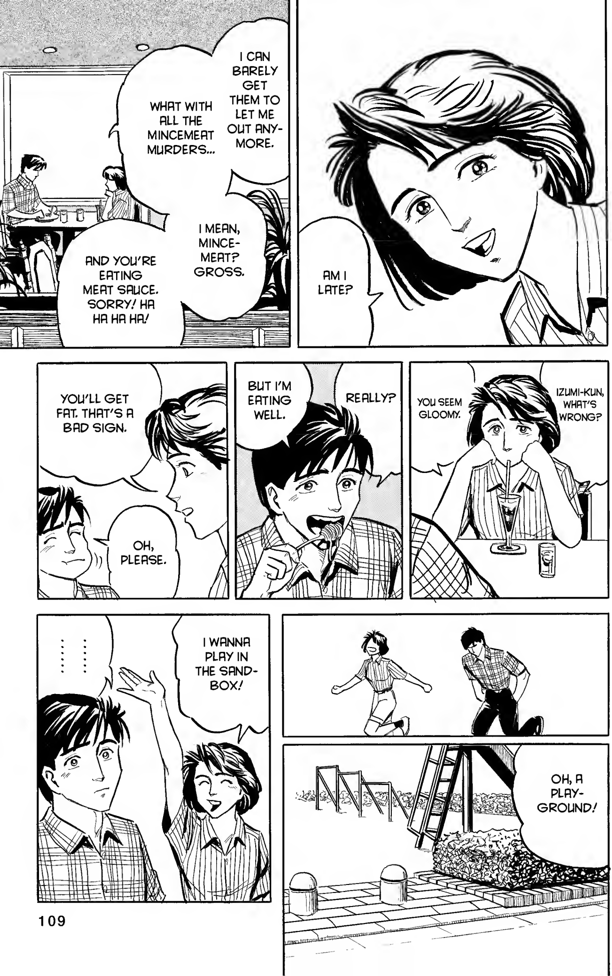

M-MIGI...
BUT IF I CUT THAT HUMAN'S HEAD OFF, YOU'LL HAVE NO CHOICE.
YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES.
NO... WAIT...
FFFWIP!
DELUSION ABOUT

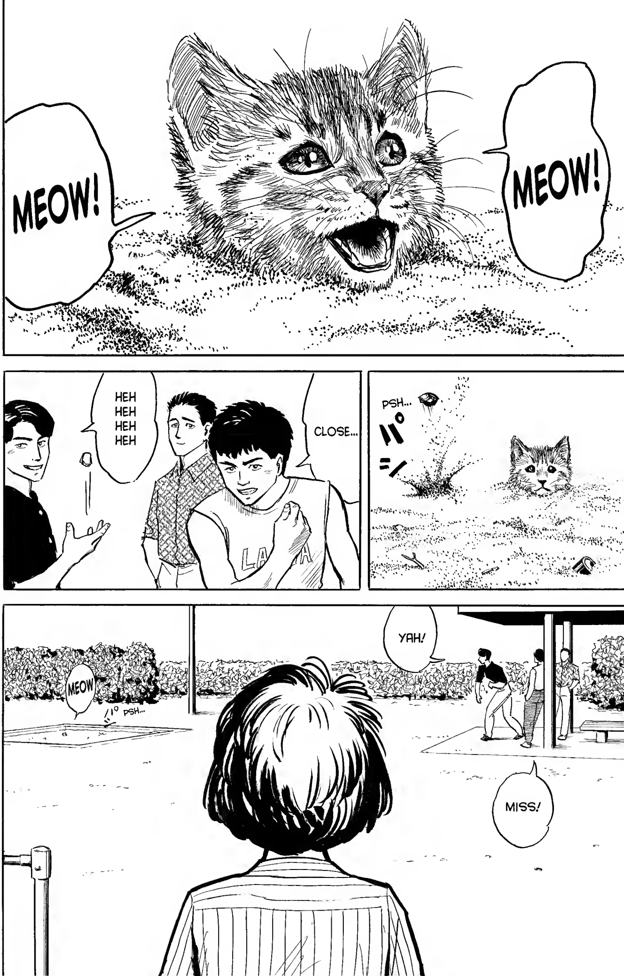

LLUSION
SLICE!
!!

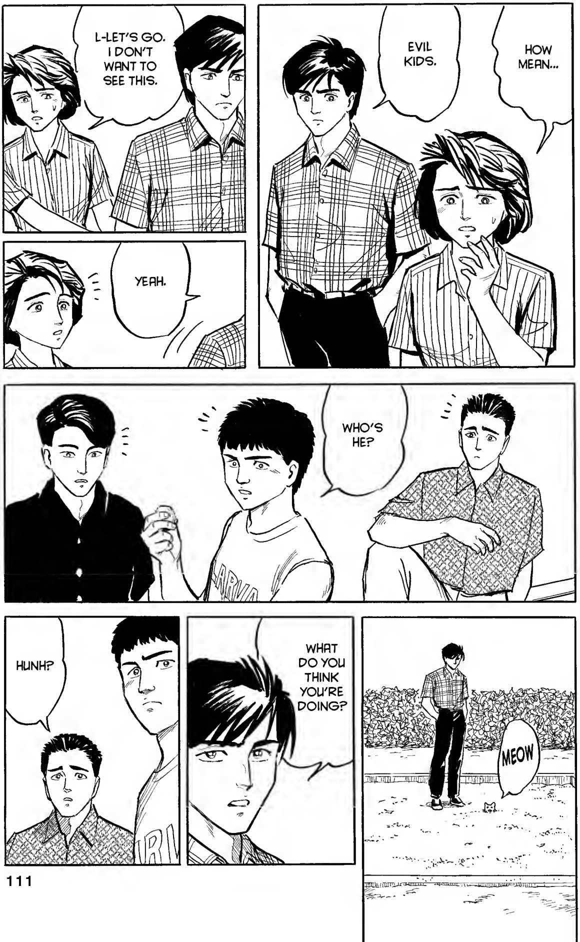

カッ
SCRUNCH
シュッ
DELUSION
WANDER
ボヂョ
SPLAT
Y...
YOU'RE CRAZY!
H....
HOW DARE YOU!!

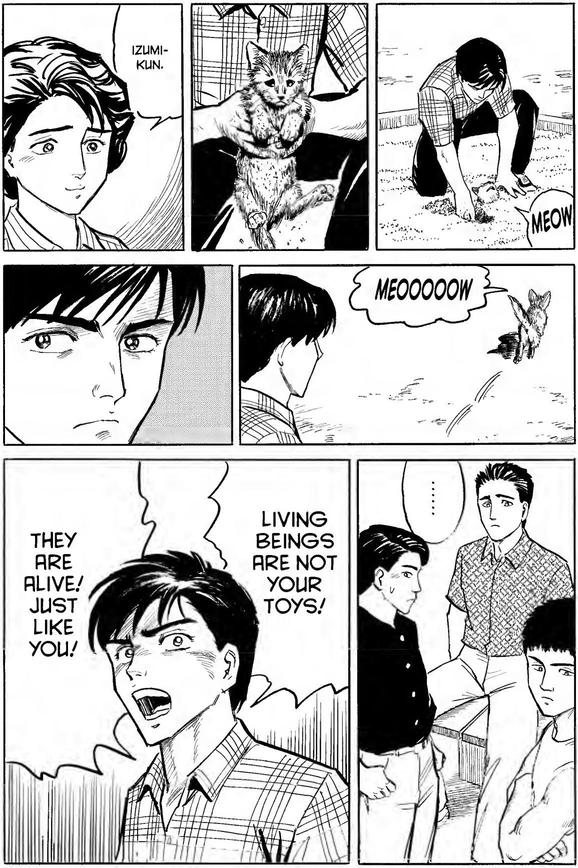

......
M...MY BODY... MY...
MY.....
MIGI...
YOU SAVED ME...?
DELUSION
カ゛
SKLUP
ビョッ
DELUSION
I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T THINK...
I JUST WASN'T CERTAIN I COULD BE TRANSPLANTED. I WAS ONLY PROTECTING MY OWN LIFE.
I'M TIRED NOW. GOING TO SLEEP.
DELUSION

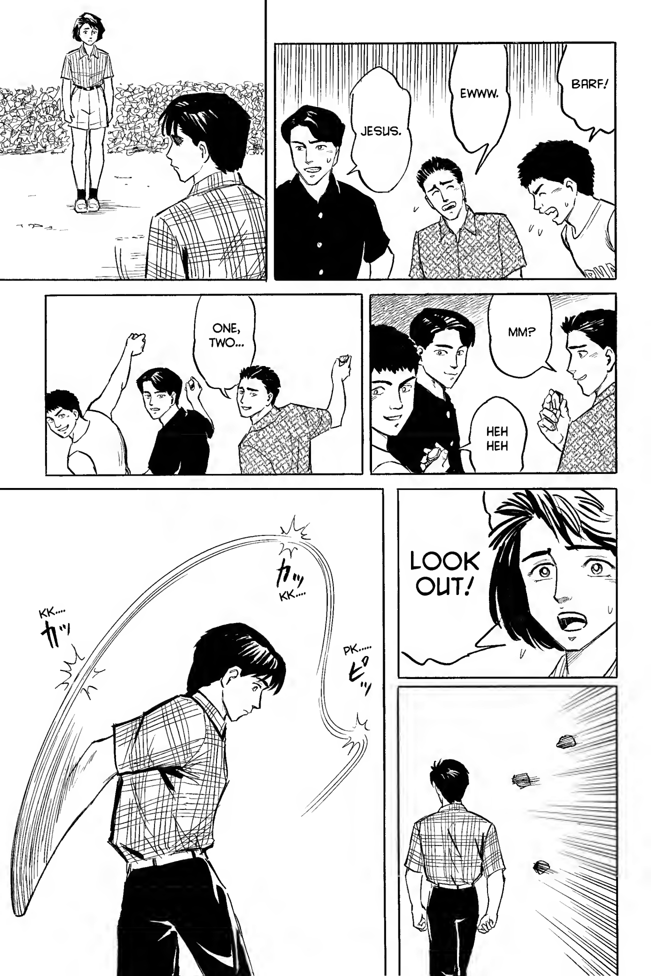

M...MY BODY... MY....MY.....
MIGI...
......
AM I FREE?
SURE, I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING IMPORTANT...

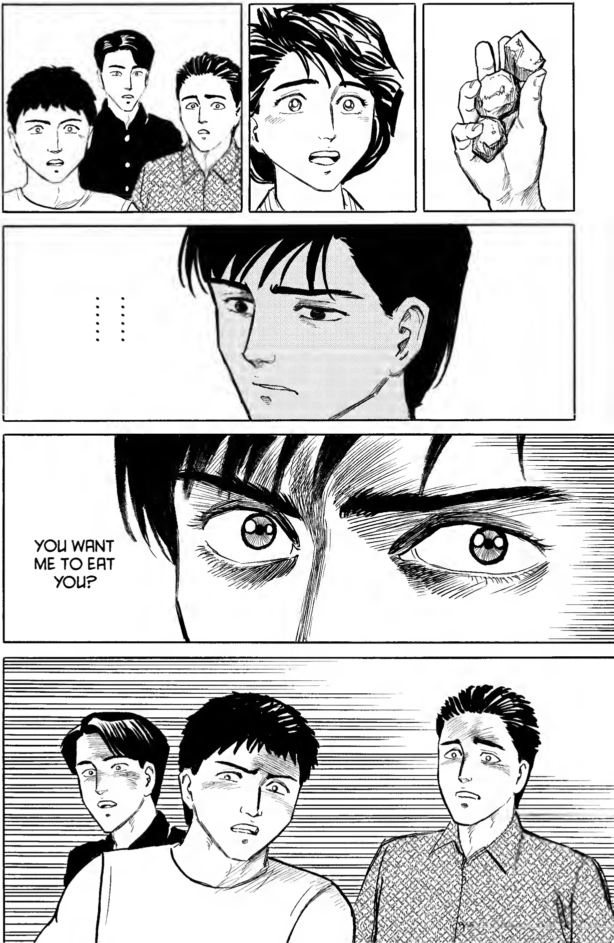

AM I LATE?
I CAN BARELY GET THEM TO LET ME OUT ANYMORE.
WHAT WITH ALL THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS...
I MEAN, MINCEMEAT? GROSS.
AND YOU'RE EATING MEAT SAUCE. SORRY! HA HA HA HA!
IZUMI-KUN, WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU SEEM GLOOMY.
REALLY?
BUT I'M EATING WELL.
YOU'LL GET FAT. THAT'S A BAD SIGN.
OH, PLEASE.
OH, A PLAYGROUND!
I WANNA PLAY IN THE SANDBOX!
……

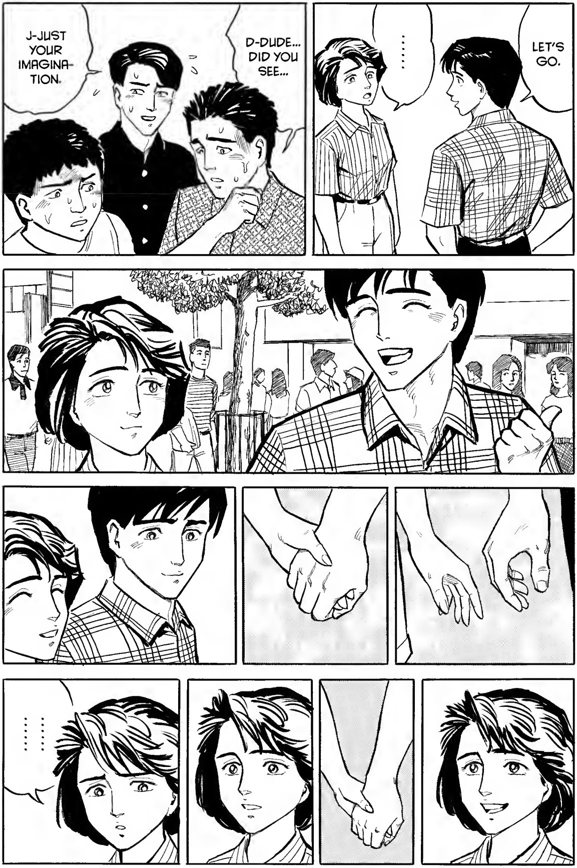

MEOW!
MEOW!
PSH...
パシ
CLOSE...
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
YAH!
MEOW
PSH...
MISS!

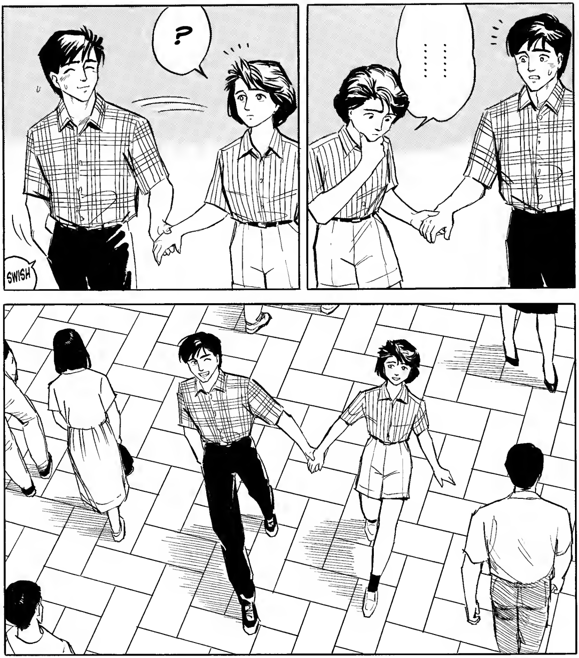

HOW MEAN...
EVIL KIDS.
L-LET'S GO. I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS.
YEAH.
WHO'S HE?
MEOW
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
HUNH?


IZUMI-KUN.
MEOW
MEOOOOOW
LIVING BEINGS ARE NOT YOUR TOYS!
THEY ARE ALIVE! JUST LIKE YOU!
……


BARF!
EWWW.
JESUS.
MM?
HEH HEH
ONE, TWO...
LOOK OUT!
PK..... ピッ
KK.... カッ
KK.... カッ


……
YOU WANT ME TO EAT YOU?

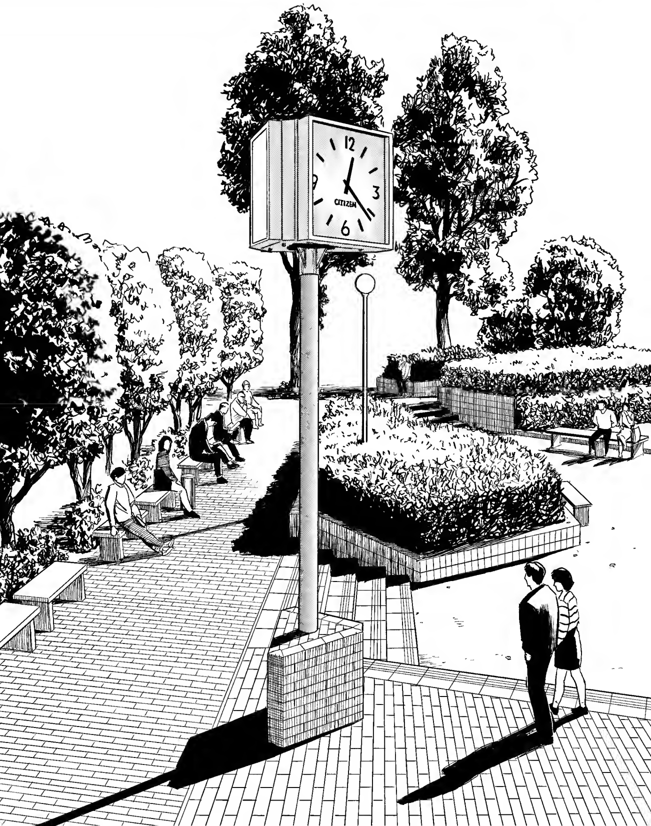

D-DUDE... DID YOU SEE...
J-JUST YOUR IMAGINATION.
LET'S GO.
......
......

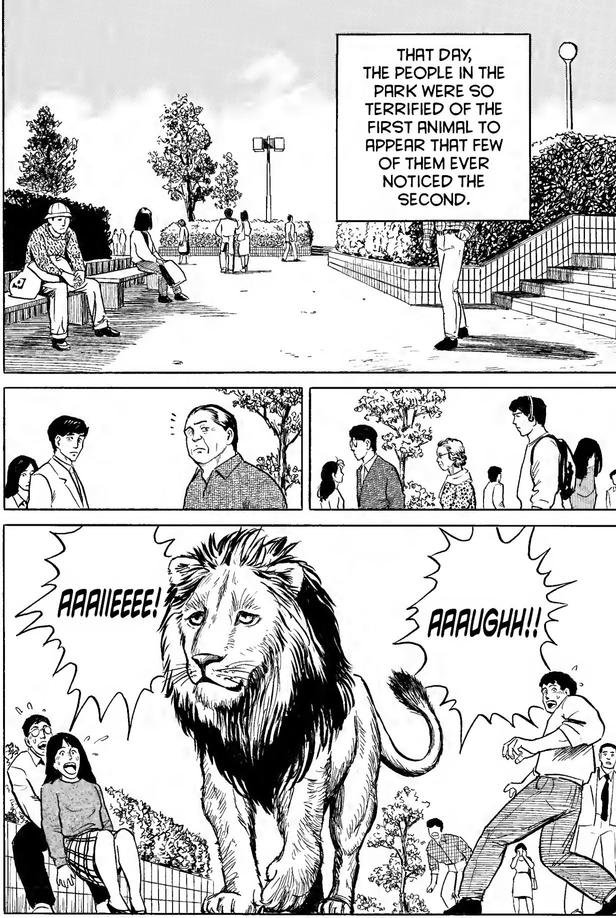


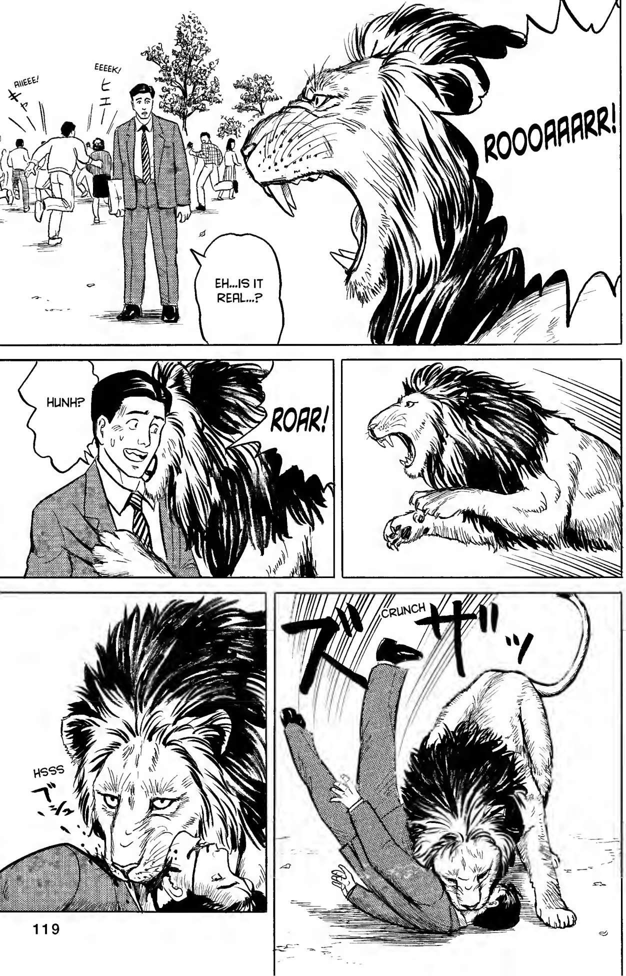
"IZUMI-KUN."
"MM?"
"YOU ARE...IZUMI SHINICHI-KUN...
RIGHT?"
"OF COURSE I AM!"

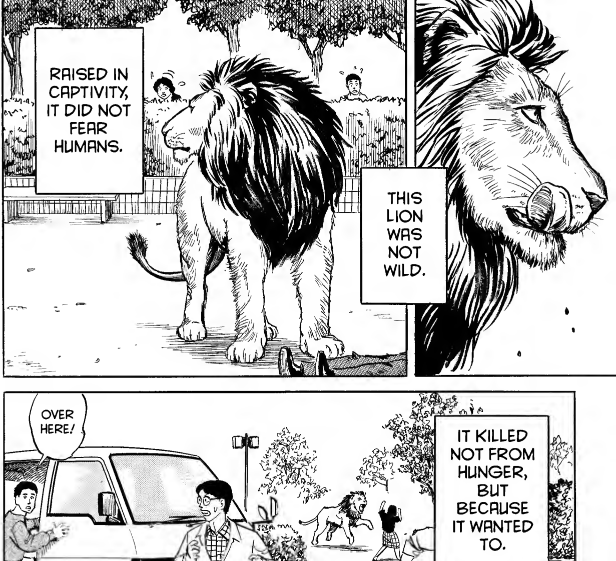
CHAPTER 3: THE END

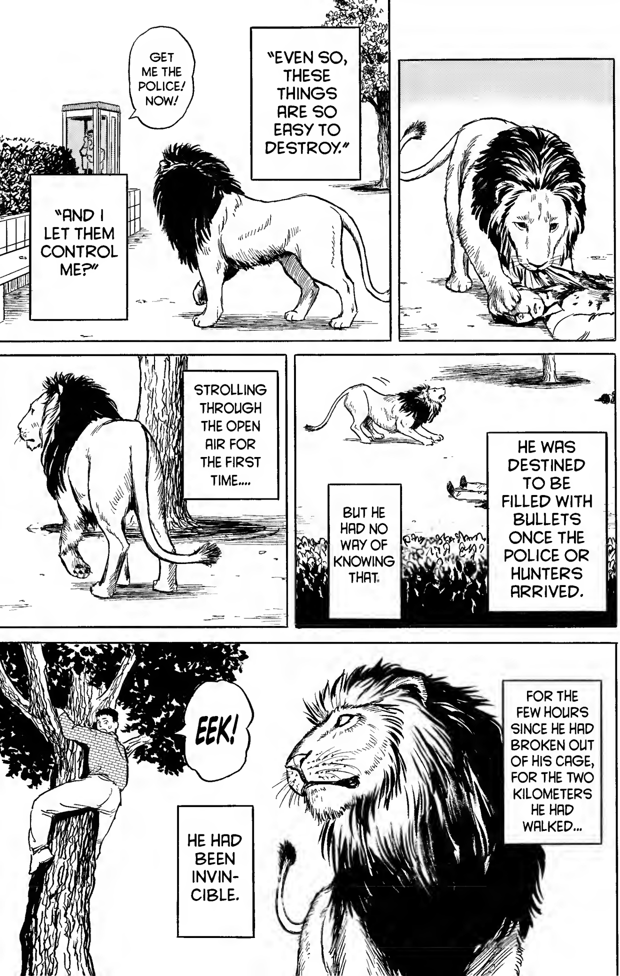
CHAPTER 4: KILLER'S AURA

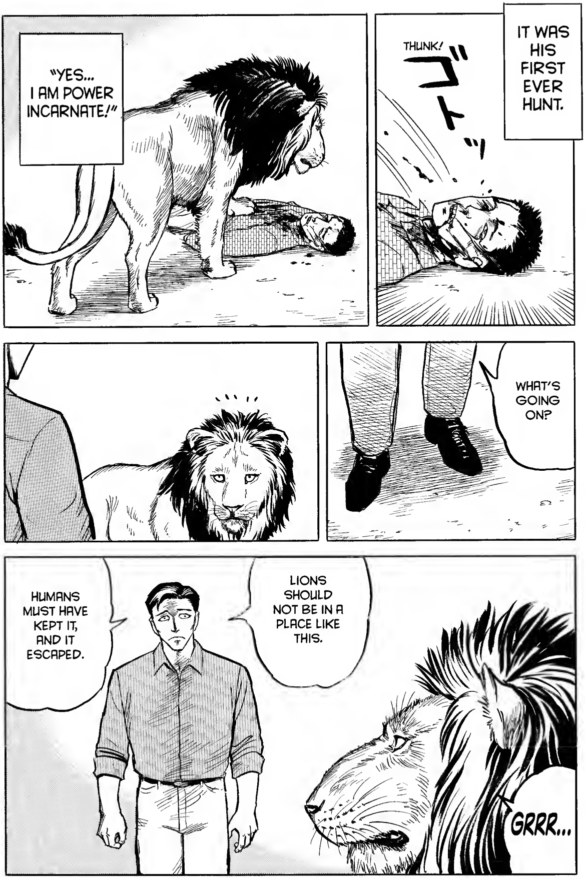


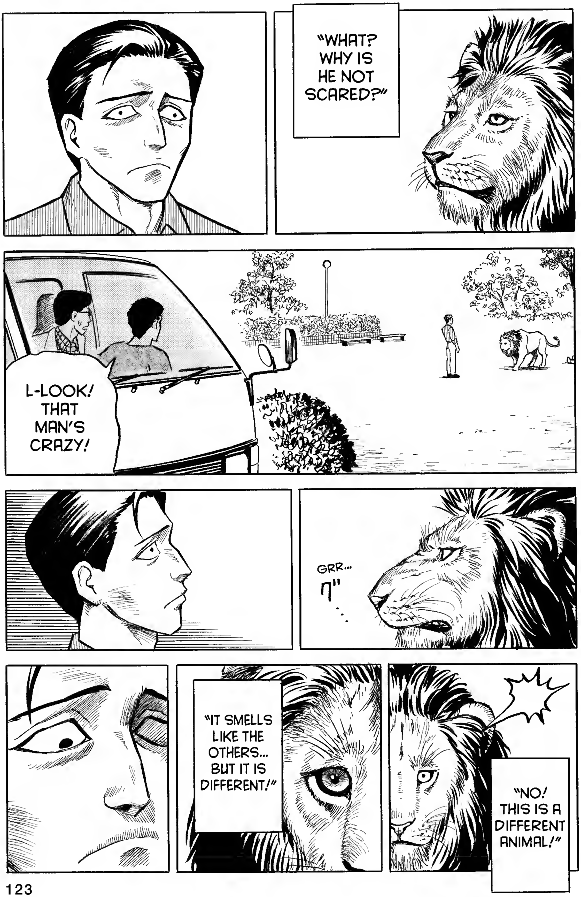

THAT DAY, THE PEOPLE IN THE PARK WERE SO TERRIFIED OF THE FIRST ANIMAL TO APPEAR THAT FEW OF THEM EVER NOTICED THE SECOND.
AARAUGHH!!
AAAIIEEEE!

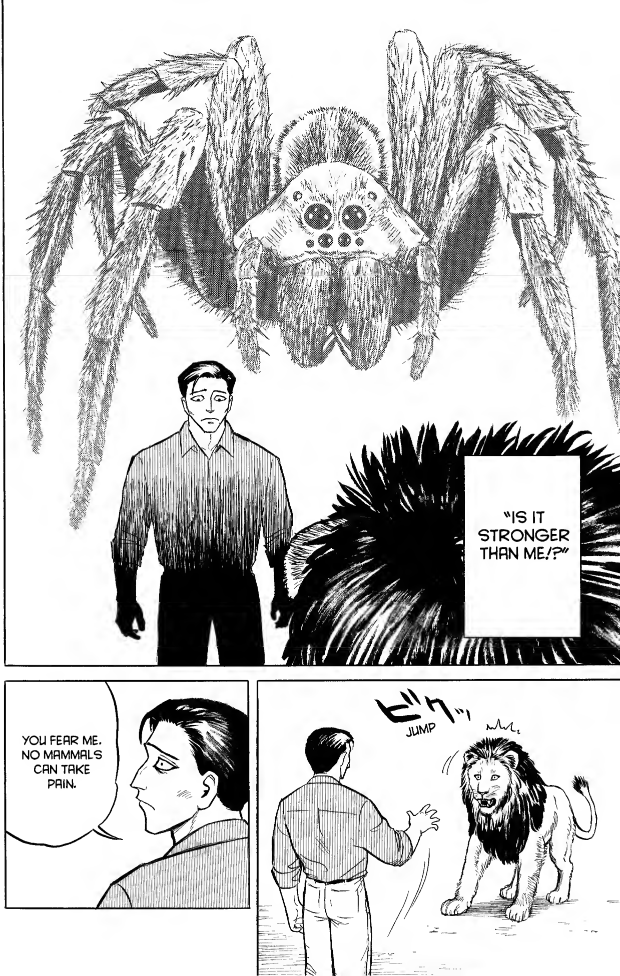

ROOOAAARR!
EH...IS IT REAL...?
EEEEK! ヒエー
AIIEEE! キャ
ROAR!
HUNH?
ズザッ CRUNCH
ブシュ HSSS

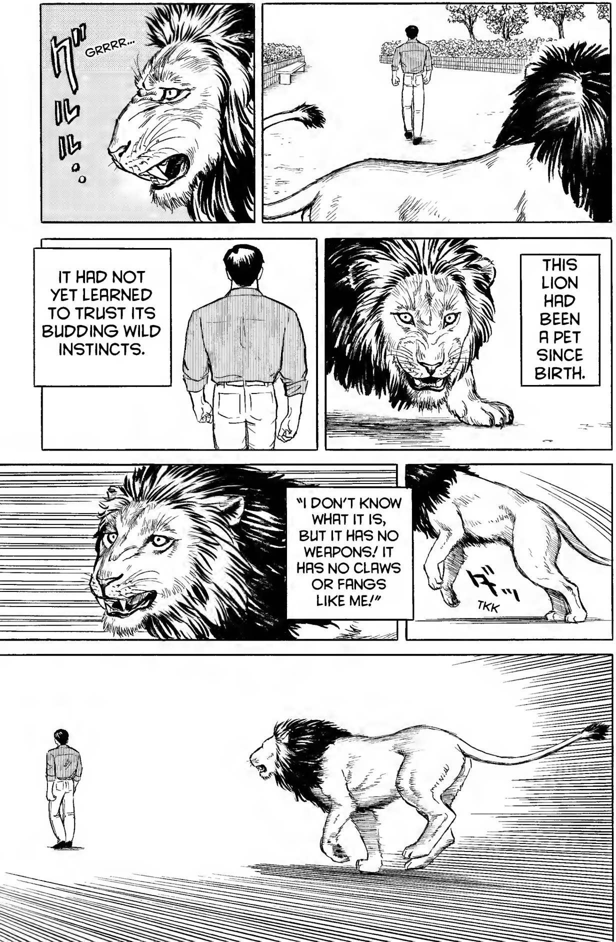

THIS LION WAS NOT WILD.
RAISED IN CAPTIVITY, IT DID NOT FEAR HUMANS.
IT KILLED NOT FROM HUNGER, BUT BECAUSE IT WANTED TO.
OVER HERE!
"AHH..."
"THIS IS WHAT MY CLAWS AND FANGS WERE FOR."

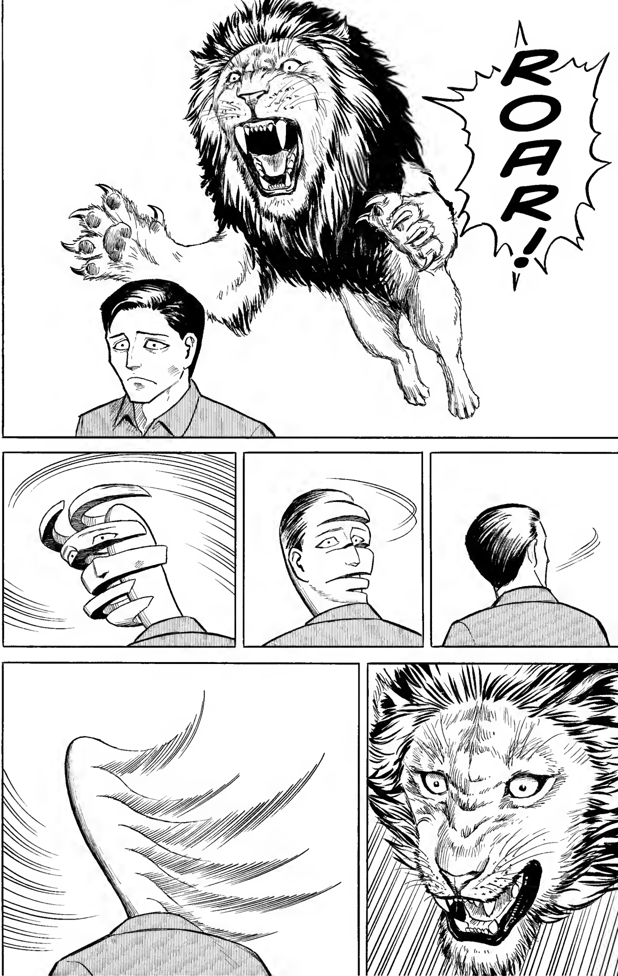

"EVEN SO, THESE THINGS ARE SO EASY TO DESTROY."
GET ME THE POLICE! NOW!
"AND I LET THEM CONTROL ME?"
HE WAS DESTINED TO BE FILLED WITH BULLETS ONCE THE POLICE OR HUNTERS ARRIVED.
BUT HE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT.
STROLLING THROUGH THE OPEN AIR FOR THE FIRST TIME....
FOR THE FEW HOURS SINCE HE HAD BROKEN OUT OF HIS CAGE, FOR THE TWO KILOMETERS HE HAD WALKED...
HE HAD BEEN INVINCIBLE.
EEK!

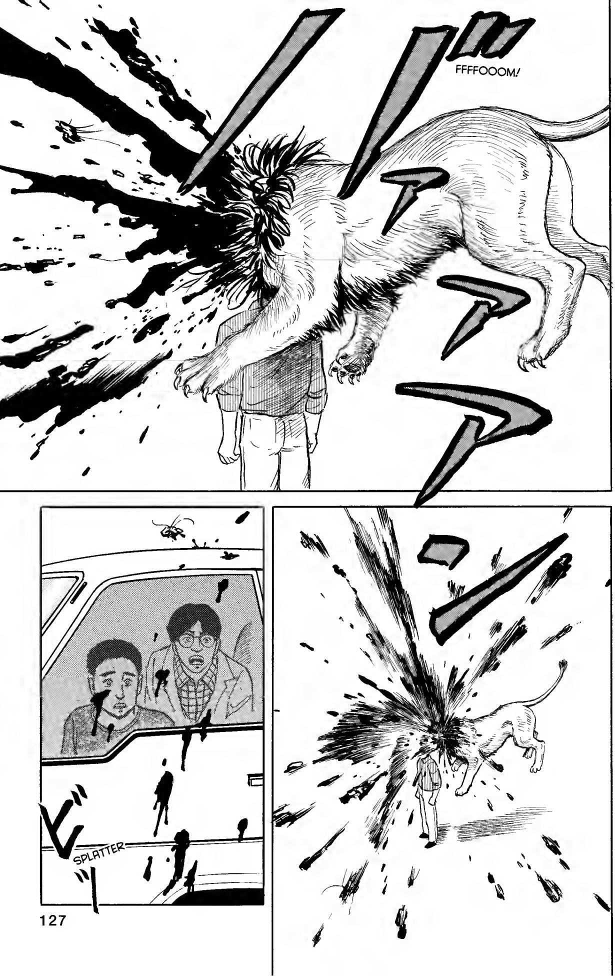

IT WAS HIS FIRST EVER HUNT.
THUNK! ゴトッ
"YES... I AM POWER INCARNATE!"
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LIONS SHOULD NOT BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
HUMANS MUST HAVE KEPT IT, AND IT ESCAPED.
GRRR...

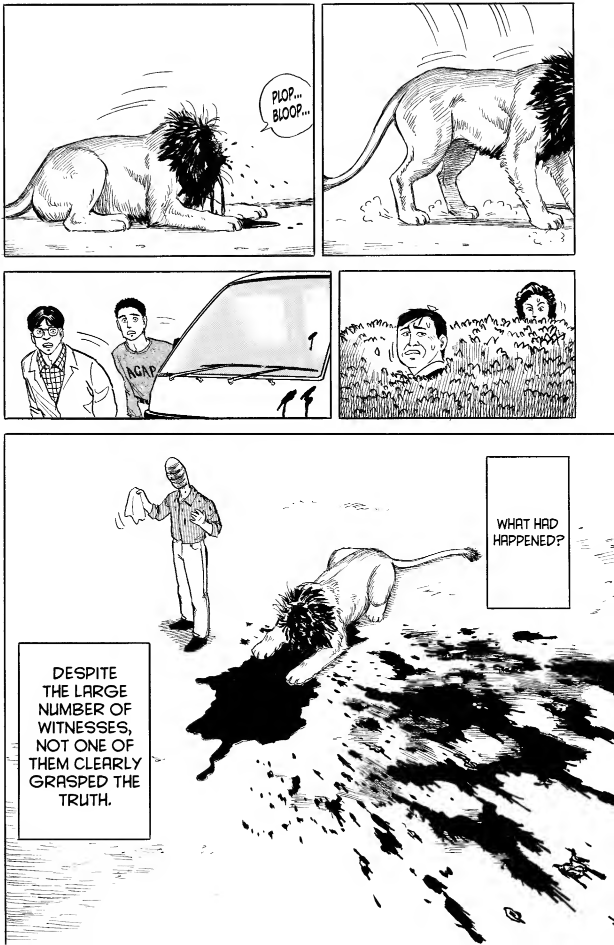

"WHAT? WHY IS HE NOT SCARED?"
L-LOOK! THAT MAN'S CRAZY!
GRR...
"IT SMELLS LIKE THE OTHERS... BUT IT IS DIFFERENT!"
"NO! THIS IS A DIFFERENT ANIMAL!"

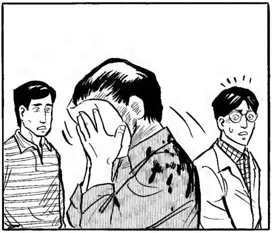

"IS IT STRONGER THAN ME!?"
ビクッ
JUMP
YOU FEAR ME. NO MAMMALS CAN TAKE PAIN.

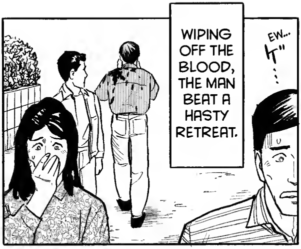

グルル。。
GRRRR...
THIS LION HAD BEEN A PET SINCE BIRTH.
IT HAD NOT YET LEARNED TO TRUST ITS BUDDING WILD INSTINCTS.
ドッ
TKK
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT IT HAS NO WEAPONS! IT HAS NO CLAWS OR FANGS LIKE ME!"

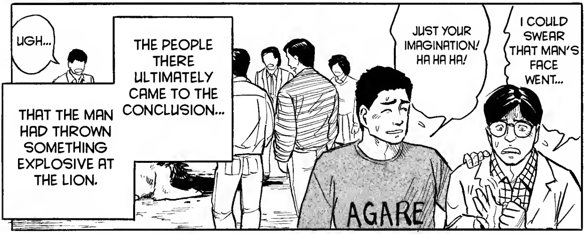

ROAR!


FFFFOOOM!
SPLATTER

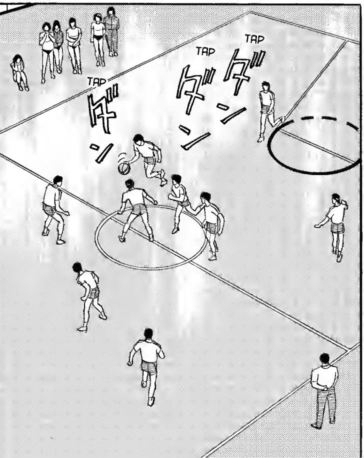

PLOP... BLOOP...
WHAT HAD HAPPENED?
DESPITE THE LARGE NUMBER OF WITNESSES, NOT ONE OF THEM CLEARLY GRASPED THE TRUTH.

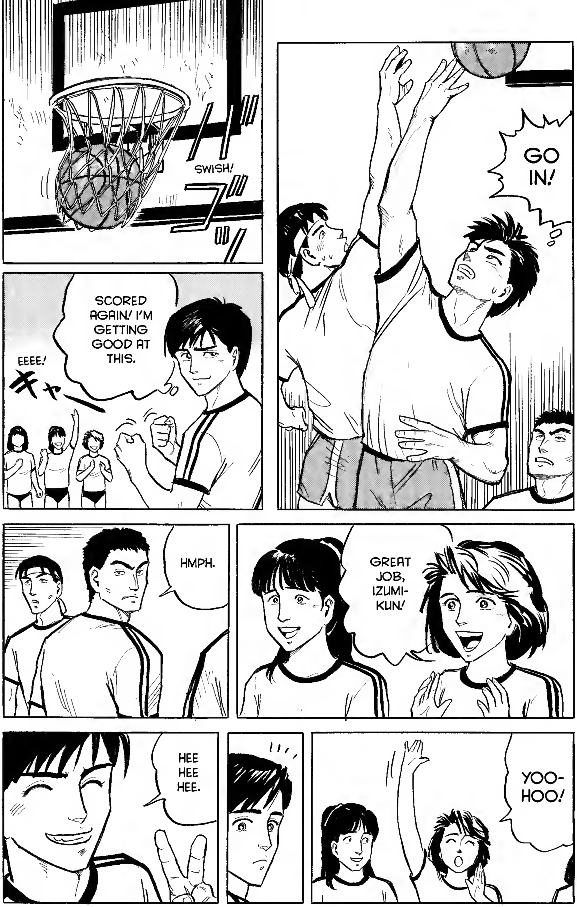


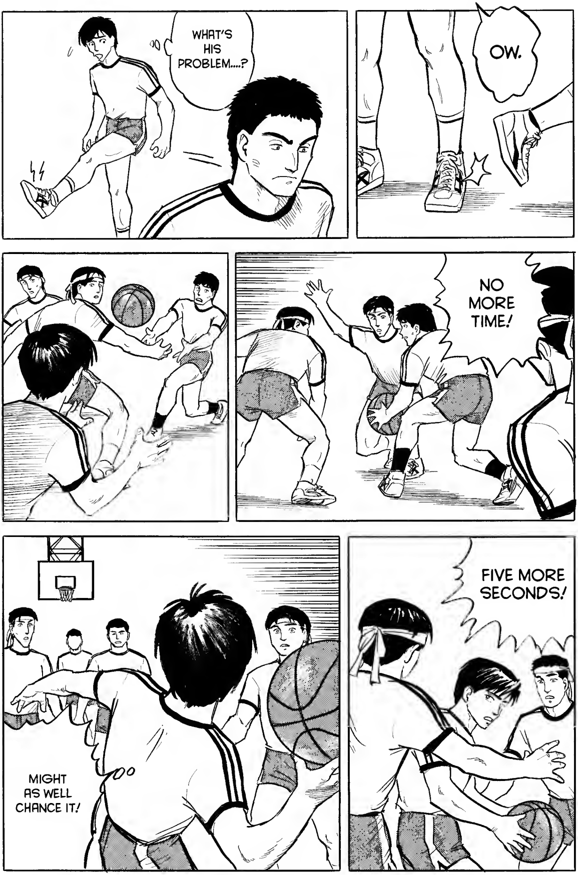

WIPING OFF THE BLOOD, THE MAN BEAT A HASTY RETREAT.
EW... ゲ"

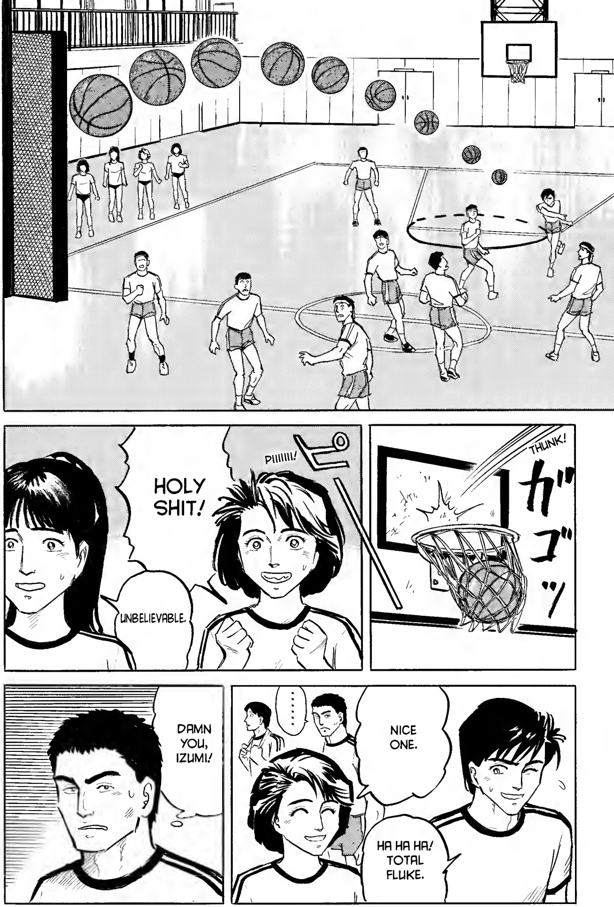

I COULD SWEAR THAT MAN'S FACE WENT...
JUST YOUR IMAGINATION! HA HA HA!
AGARE
UGH...
THE PEOPLE THERE ULTIMATELY CAME TO THE CONCLUSION...
THAT THE MAN HAD THROWN SOMETHING EXPLOSIVE AT THE LION.

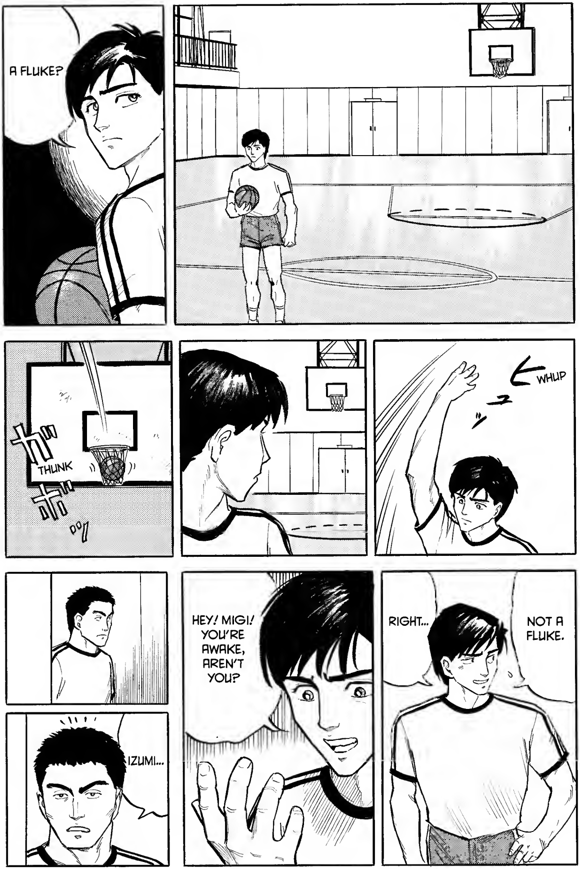
TAP TAP TAP
ダン ダン ダン

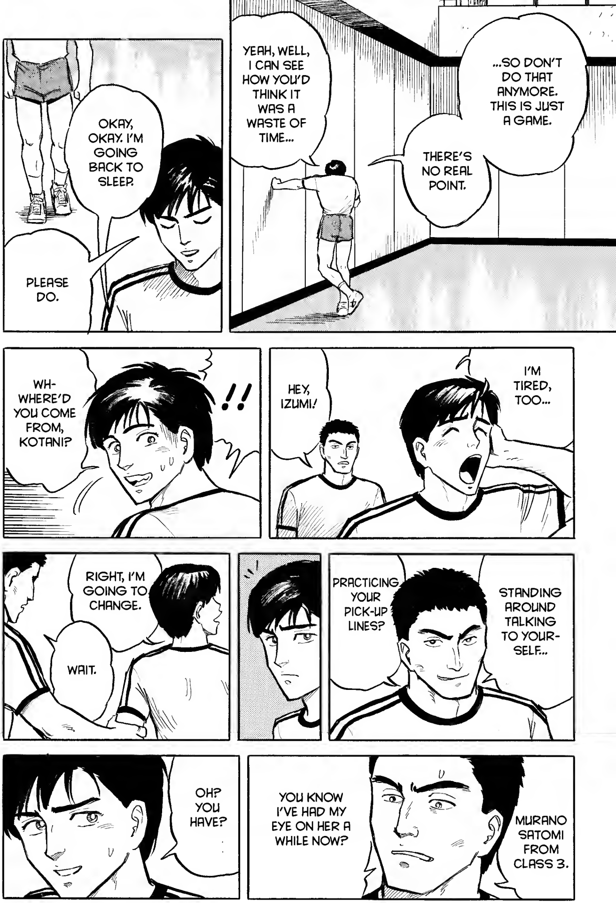

TAP ダン
TAP ダン
TAP ダン

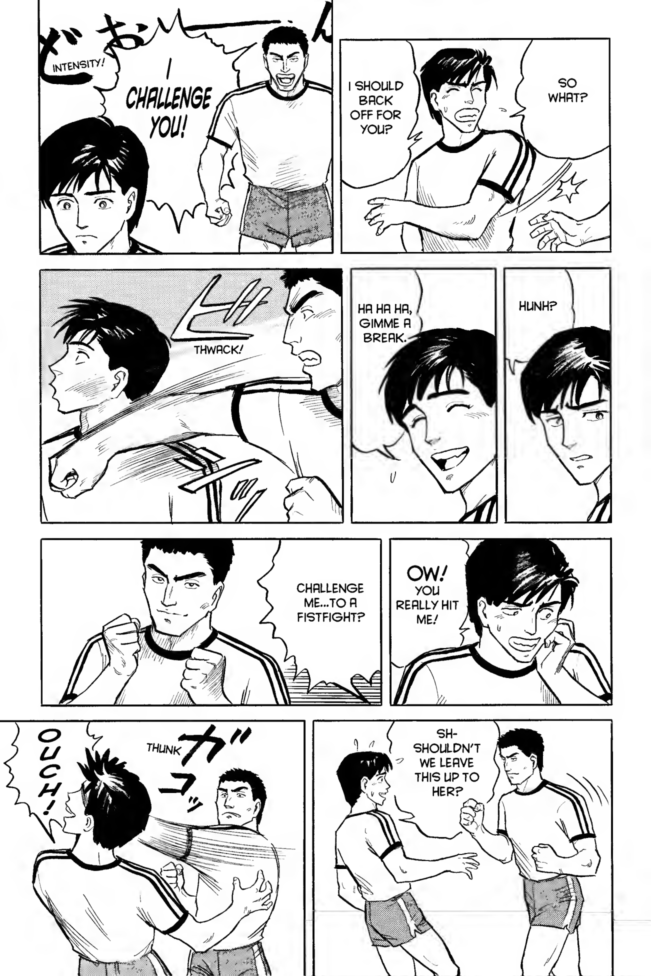

GO IN!
SWISH!
SCORED AGAIN! I'M GETTING GOOD AT THIS.
EEEE!
キャー
GREAT JOB, IZUMI-KUN!
HMPH.
YOO-HOO!
HEE HEE HEE.

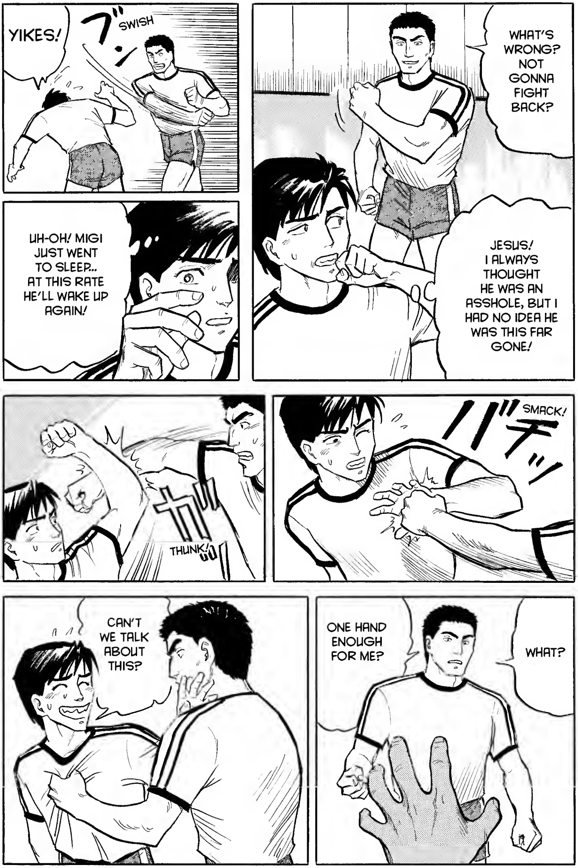

OW.
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM....?
NO MORE TIME!
FIVE MORE SECONDS!
MIGHT AS WELL CHANCE IT!

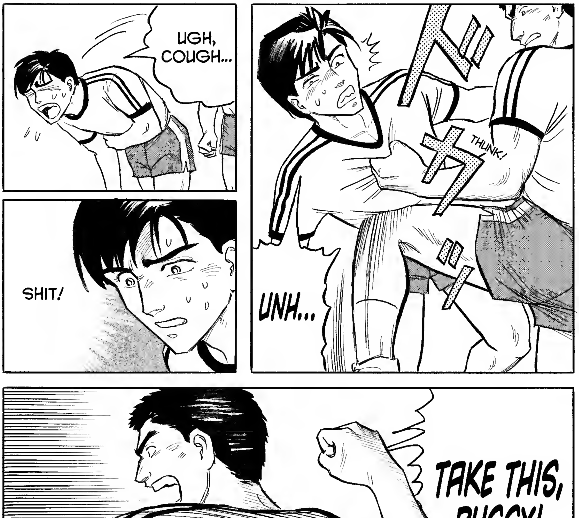

THUNK!
ガゴッ
PIIIIII!
ピッ
HOLY SHIT!
UNBELIEVABLE.
NICE ONE.
......
HA HA HA! TOTAL FLUKE.
DAMN YOU, IZUMI!

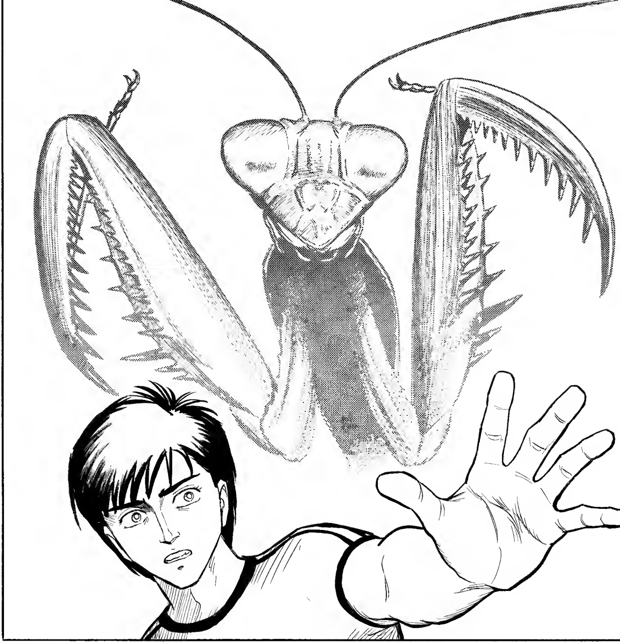

A FLUKE?
WHUP
ガボッ
THUNK
NOT A FLUKE.
RIGHT...
HEY! MIGI! YOU'RE AWAKE, AREN'T YOU?
IZUMI...

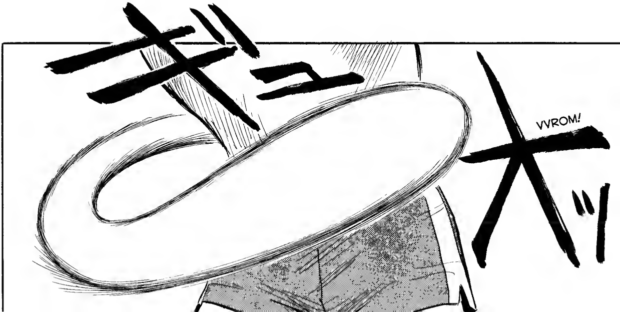

...SO DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE. THIS IS JUST A GAME.
THERE'S NO REAL POINT.
YEAH, WELL, I CAN SEE HOW YOU'D THINK IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME...
OKAY, OKAY. I'M GOING BACK TO SLEEP.
PLEASE DO.
I'M TIRED, TOO...
HEY, IZUMI!
!!
WH- WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, KOTANI?
STANDING AROUND TALKING TO YOURSELF...
PRACTICING YOUR PICK-UP LINES?
RIGHT, I'M GOING TO CHANGE.
WAIT.
MURANO SATOMI FROM CLASS 3.
YOU KNOW I'VE HAD MY EYE ON HER A WHILE NOW?
OH? YOU HAVE?

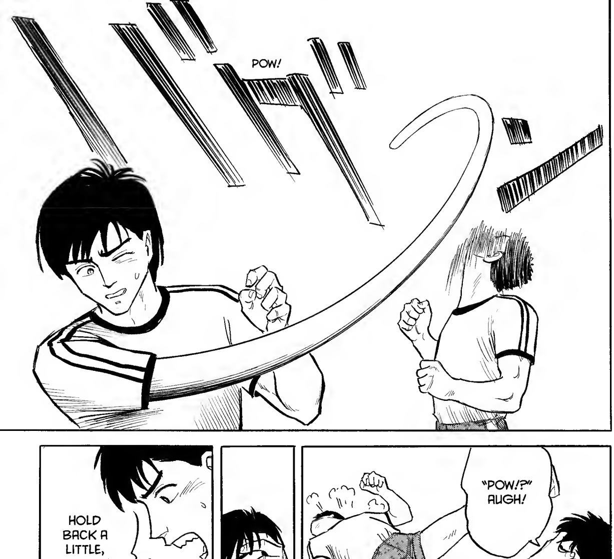

どおーーーん
INTENSITY!
I CHALLENGE YOU!
I SHOULD BACK OFF FOR YOU?
SO WHAT?
THWACK!
HA HA HA, GIMME A BREAK.
HUNH?
CHALLENGE ME...TO A FISTFIGHT?
OW! YOU REALLY HIT ME!
OUCH!
THUNK ガッ
SH-SHOULDN'T WE LEAVE THIS UP TO HER?

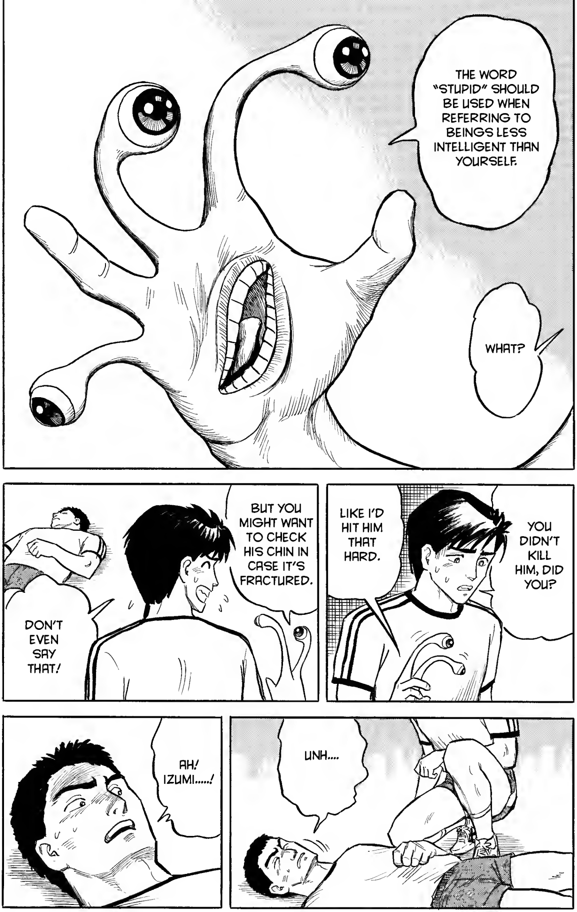

WHAT'S WRONG? NOT GONNA FIGHT BACK?
JESUS! I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS AN ASSHOLE, BUT I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS THIS FAR GONE!
YIKES!
ブン
SWISH
UH-OH! MIGI JUST WENT TO SLEEP... AT THIS RATE HE'LL WAKE UP AGAIN!
バチッ
SMACK!
ガッ
THUNK!
WHAT?
ONE HAND ENOUGH FOR ME?
CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

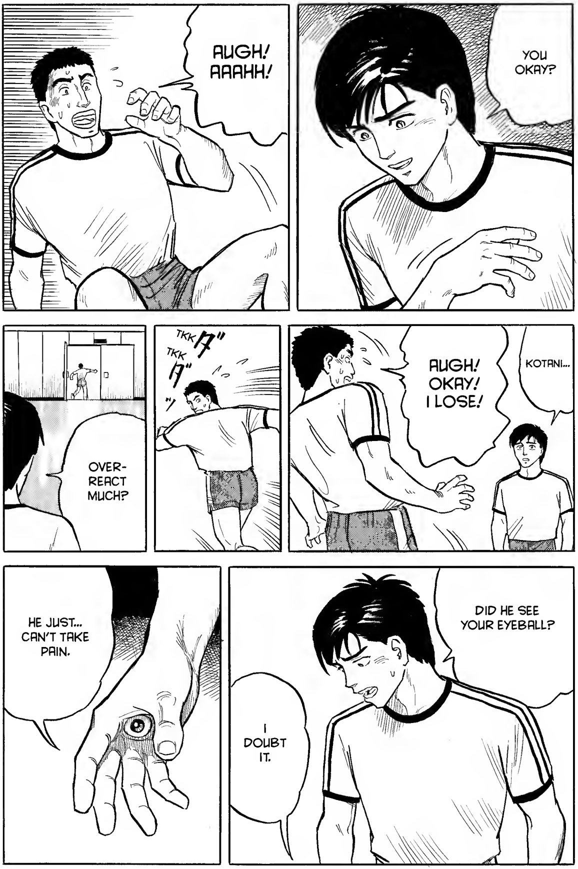

THUNK!
UNH...
UGH, COUGH...
SHIT!
TAKE THIS, PUSSY!
STOP!!
!!




ギュオッ
VVROM!


POW!
ドサッ
THUD
"POW!?" AUGH!
HOLD BACK A LITTLE, STUPID!
STUPID?


THE WORD "STUPID" SHOULD BE USED WHEN REFERRING TO BEINGS LESS INTELLIGENT THAN YOURSELF.
WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM, DID YOU?
LIKE I'D HIT HIM THAT HARD.
BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK HIS CHIN IN CASE IT'S FRACTURED.
DON'T EVEN SAY THAT!
UNH....
AH! IZUMI.....!


YOU OKAY?
AUGH! AAAHH!
KOTANI...
AUGH! OKAY! I LOSE!
TKK ダ
TKK ダッ
OVER-REACT MUCH?
DID HE SEE YOUR EYEBALL?
I DOUBT IT.
HE JUST... CAN'T TAKE PAIN.

CHAPTER 4: THE END

THE READERS ASK, THE AUTHOR ANSWERS

From the Monthly Afternoon Readers' page...

PARASYTE [PERFECT EDITION] 1

vol. 1

"I hate the horror and splatter genres, but oddly, I enjoy *Parasyte*. As the human population continues to expand, something like this might actually happen. It isn't just scary; it also makes us think. And it's also funny, which makes it a book I can't put down." (Kanagawa Prefecture, Kuroda Hisa, 30, Office Worker)

"*Parasyte* is really fun! I was amazed when the dog turned into some sort of bat! Shinichi and Migi's strange relationship is also neat. All hail Iwaaki-shi's ideas!" (Tokyo, Shiyotsuru Maiwa, 26, Office Worker)

"I began drawing this book when I wondered what would happen if living creatures besides humans, the lives we put so little value in, were granted enormous power. Pay close attention to the parasite's uncanny logic." (Hitoshi Iwaaki)

(From *Morning Open Extra H*, October 3, 1989)

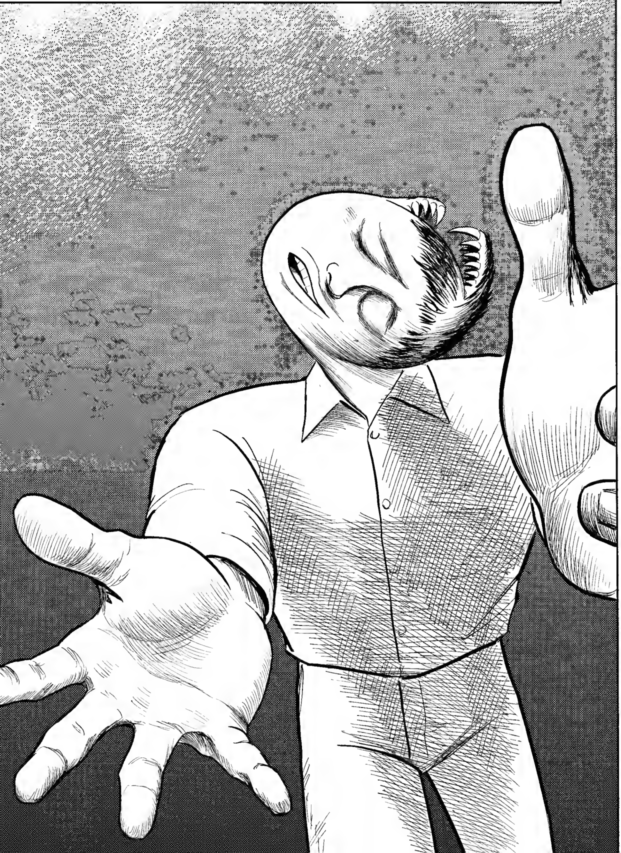
"Will humans eventually consume the Earth? With that thought in mind, the belief that the parasites are evil is nothing more than human selfishness." (Saitama Prefecture, Tachi Chitchi, 22, Student)

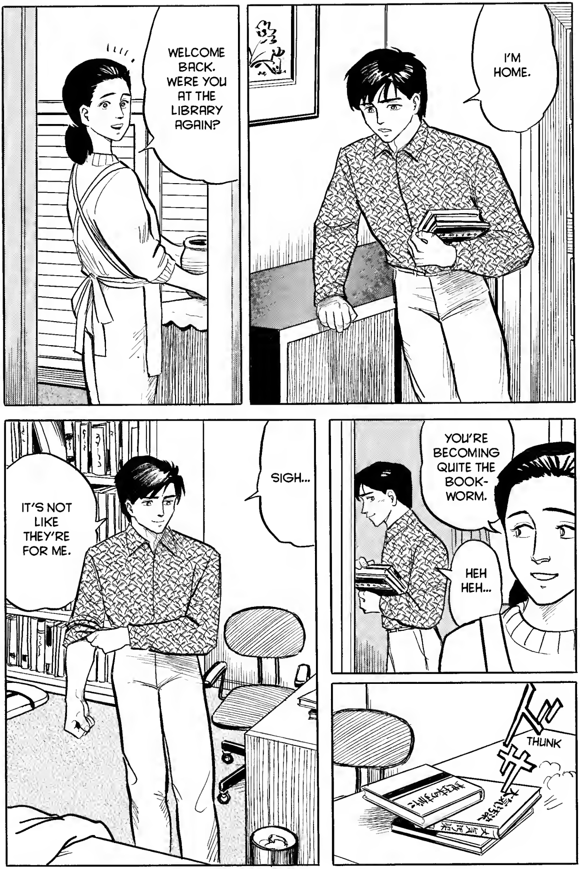
"The future of mankind, unable to feel even a little pain, is..." (Ibaraki Prefecture, Nakai Yuusuke, 26, Student)

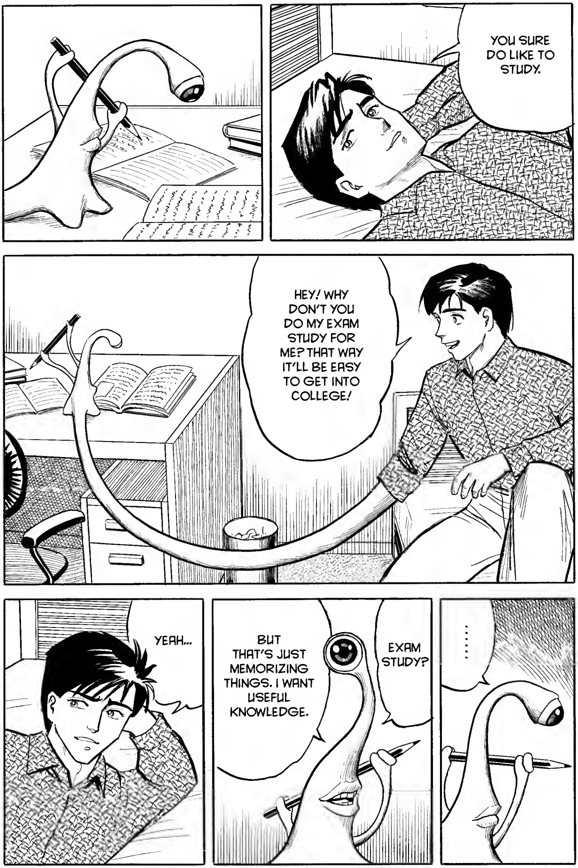
"I think we also should be thinking about the future of mankind. But one human hoping for the happiness of all accomplishes nothing. The best we can do is look after our families, neighbors, and any people or living things we come in contact with. I think that's enough. Humanity will not be saved by statistics, but by the warmth of individuals." (Hitoshi Iwaaki)

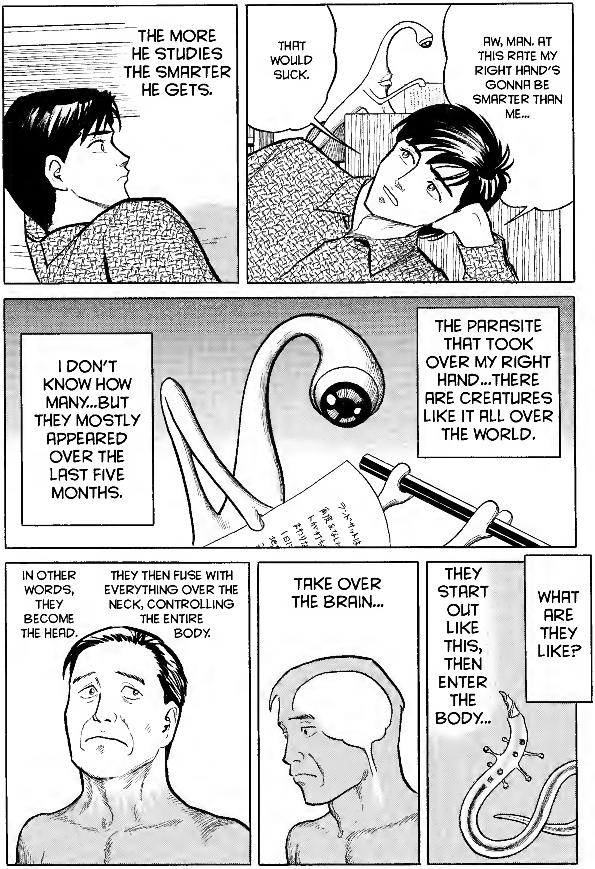
(From *Afternoon*, July 1991)

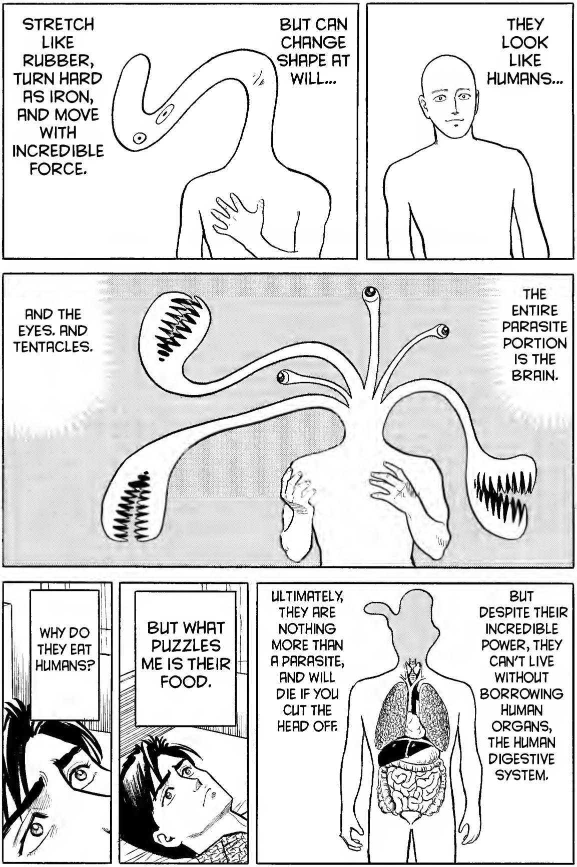
CHAPTER 5: STUDYHOLIC

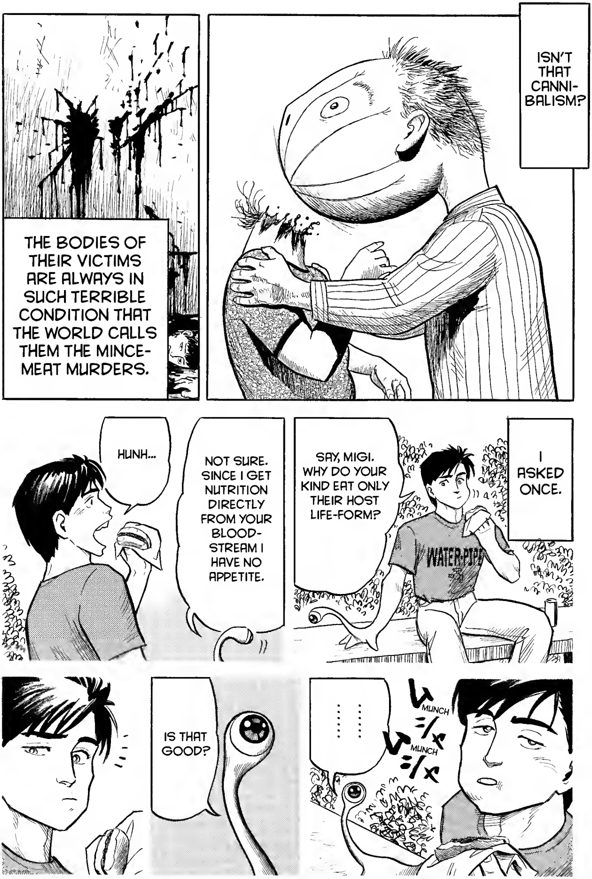


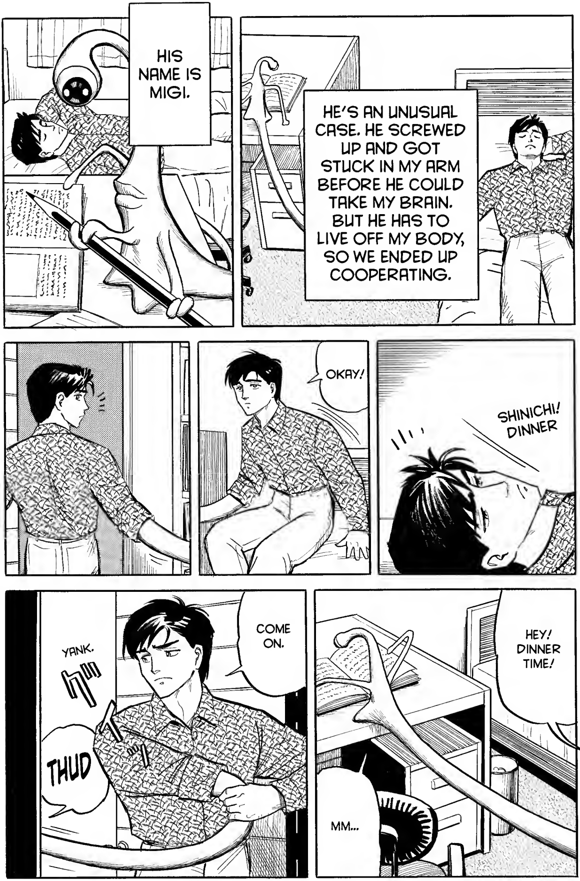

I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK. WERE YOU AT THE LIBRARY AGAIN?
YOU'RE BECOMING QUITE THE BOOKWORM.
HEH HEH...
THUNK
SIGH...
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE FOR ME.

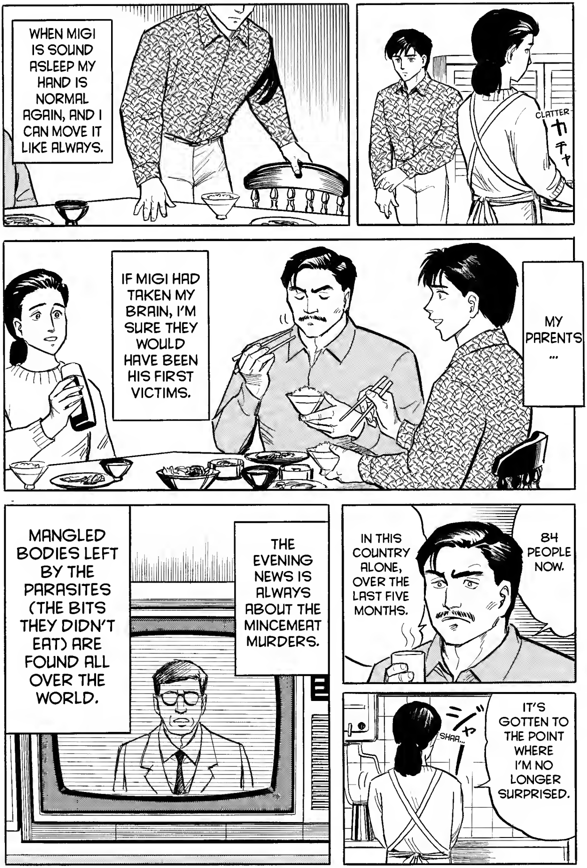

YOU SURE DO LIKE TO STUDY.
HEY! WHY DON'T YOU DO MY EXAM STUDY FOR ME? THAT WAY IT'LL BE EASY TO GET INTO COLLEGE!
......
EXAM STUDY?
BUT THAT'S JUST MEMORIZING THINGS. I WANT USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.
YEAH...

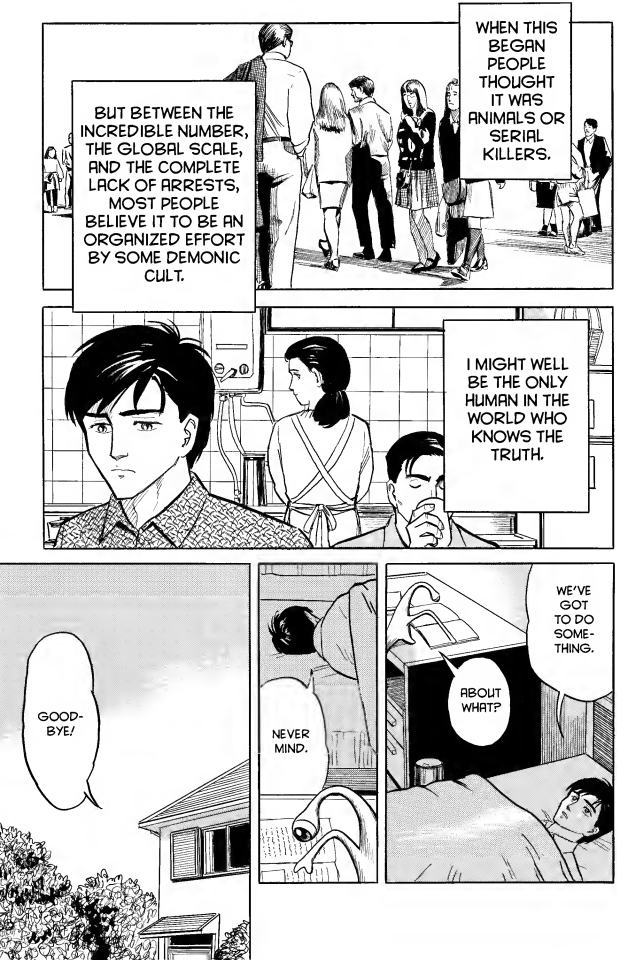

AW, MAN. AT THIS RATE MY RIGHT HAND'S GONNA BE SMARTER THAN ME...
THAT WOULD SUCK.
THE MORE HE STUDIES THE SMARTER HE GETS.
THE PARASITE THAT TOOK OVER MY RIGHT HAND...THERE ARE CREATURES LIKE IT ALL OVER THE WORLD.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY...BUT THEY MOSTLY APPEARED OVER THE LAST FIVE MONTHS.
WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?
THEY START OUT LIKE THIS, THEN ENTER THE BODY...
TAKE OVER THE BRAIN...
THEY THEN FUSE WITH EVERYTHING OVER THE NECK, CONTROLLING THE ENTIRE BODY.
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY BECOME THE HEAD.

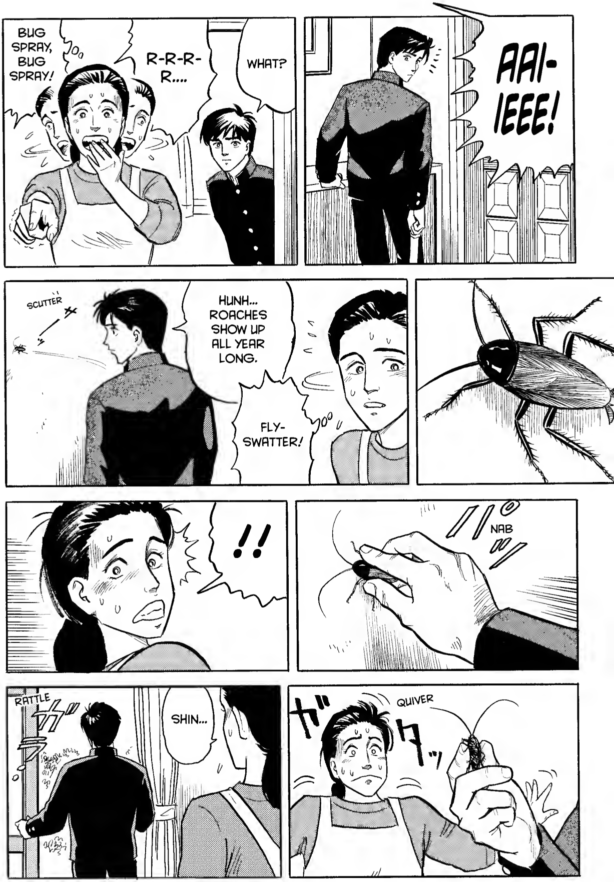

THEY LOOK LIKE HUMANS...
BUT CAN CHANGE SHAPE AT WILL...
STRETCH LIKE RUBBER, TURN HARD AS IRON, AND MOVE WITH INCREDIBLE FORCE.
THE ENTIRE PARASITE PORTION IS THE BRAIN.
AND THE EYES. AND TENTACLES.
BUT DESPITE THEIR INCREDIBLE POWER, THEY CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT BORROWING HUMAN ORGANS, THE HUMAN DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.
ULTIMATELY, THEY ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A PARASITE, AND WILL DIE IF YOU CUT THE HEAD OFF.
BUT WHAT PUZZLES ME IS THEIR FOOD.
WHY DO THEY EAT HUMANS?

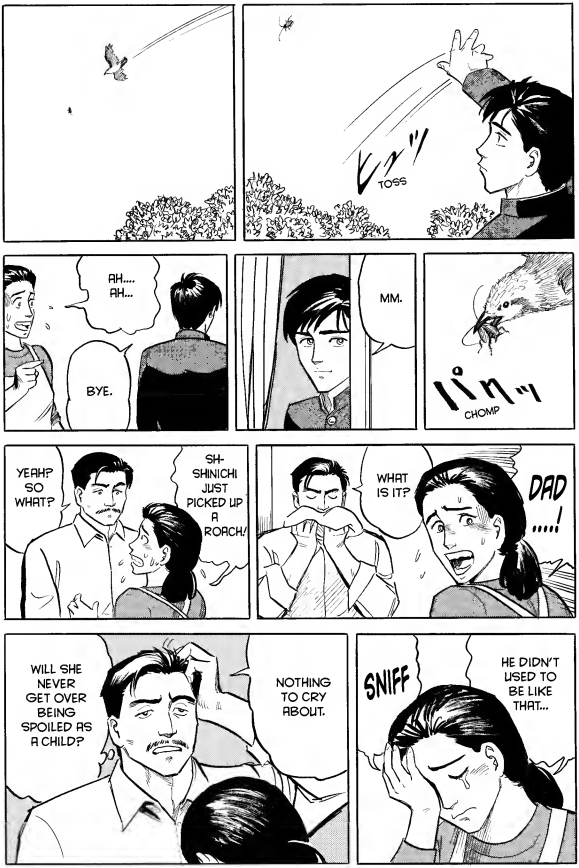

ISN'T THAT CANNIBALISM?
THE BODIES OF THEIR VICTIMS ARE ALWAYS IN SUCH TERRIBLE CONDITION THAT THE WORLD CALLS THEM THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS.
I ASKED ONCE.
SAY, MIGI. WHY DO YOUR KIND EAT ONLY THEIR HOST LIFE-FORM?
WATER-PIPE
NOT SURE. SINCE I GET NUTRITION DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BLOODSTREAM I HAVE NO APPETITE.
HUNH...
MUNCH
MUNCH
......
IS THAT GOOD?

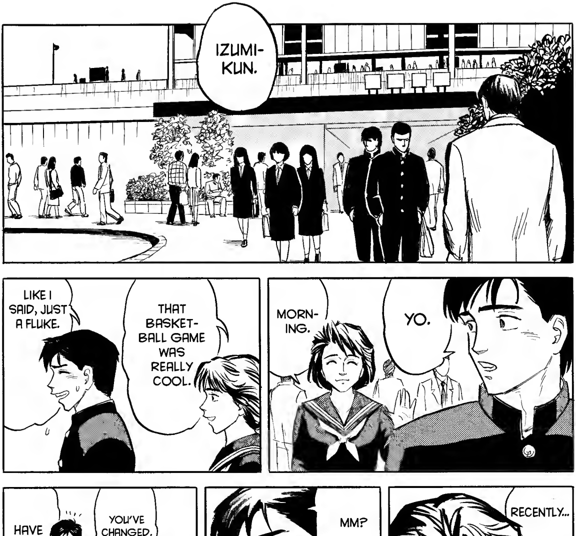

HE'S AN UNUSUAL CASE. HE SCREWED UP AND GOT STUCK IN MY ARM BEFORE HE COULD TAKE MY BRAIN. BUT HE HAS TO LIVE OFF MY BODY, SO WE ENDED UP COOPERATING.
HIS NAME IS MIGI.
SHINICHI! DINNER
OKAY!
HEY! DINNER TIME!
MM...
COME ON.
YANK.
THUD

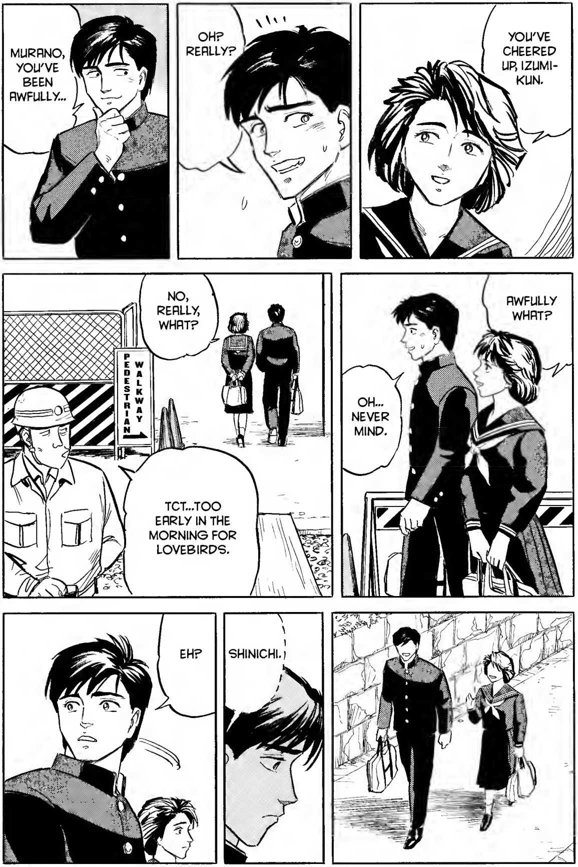

WHEN MIGI IS SOUND ASLEEP MY HAND IS NORMAL AGAIN, AND I CAN MOVE IT LIKE ALWAYS.
CLATTER
カチャ
IF MIGI HAD TAKEN MY BRAIN, I'M SURE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS FIRST VICTIMS.
MY PARENTS ...
MANGLED BODIES LEFT BY THE PARASITES (THE BITS THEY DIDN'T EAT) ARE FOUND ALL OVER THE WORLD.
THE EVENING NEWS IS ALWAYS ABOUT THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS.
IN THIS COUNTRY ALONE, OVER THE LAST FIVE MONTHS.
84 PEOPLE NOW.
ジャー
SHAA...
IT'S GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE I'M NO LONGER SURPRISED.

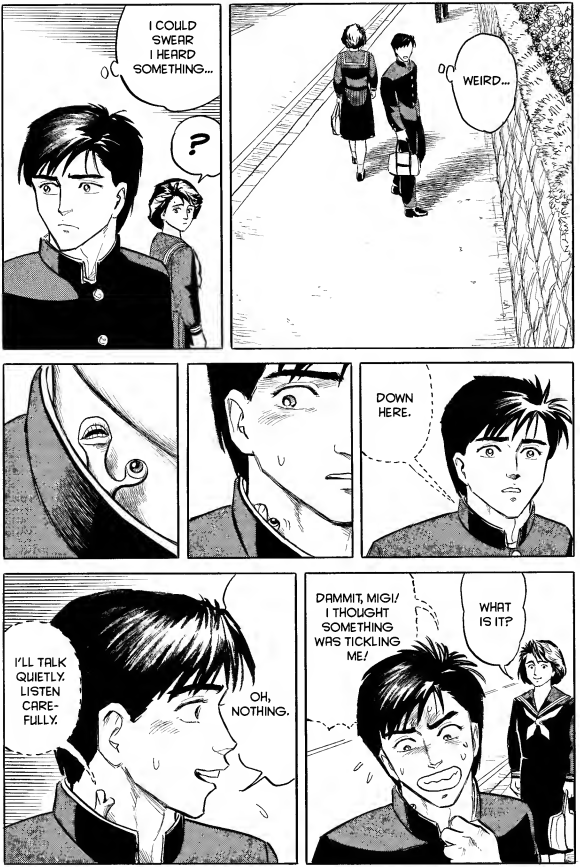

WHEN THIS BEGAN PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS ANIMALS OR SERIAL KILLERS.
BUT BETWEEN THE INCREDIBLE NUMBER, THE GLOBAL SCALE, AND THE COMPLETE LACK OF ARRESTS, MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE IT TO BE AN ORGANIZED EFFORT BY SOME DEMONIC CULT.
I MIGHT WELL BE THE ONLY HUMAN IN THE WORLD WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH.
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.
ABOUT WHAT?
NEVER MIND.
GOOD-BYE!

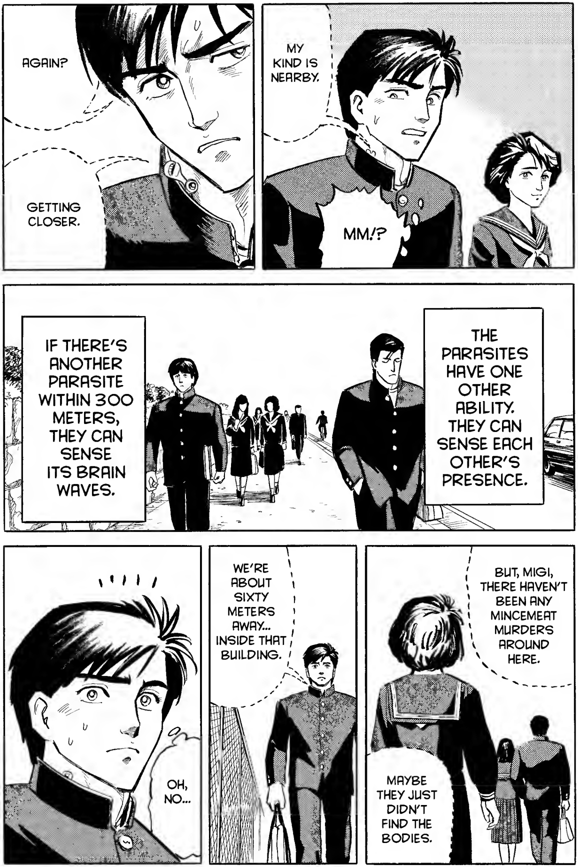

BUG SPRAY, BUG SPRAY!
R-R-R-R....
WHAT?
AAI-IEEE!
SCUTTER
HUNH... ROACHES SHOW UP ALL YEAR LONG.
FLY-SWATTER!
!!
NAB
RATTLE
SHIN...
ガタッ
QUIVER

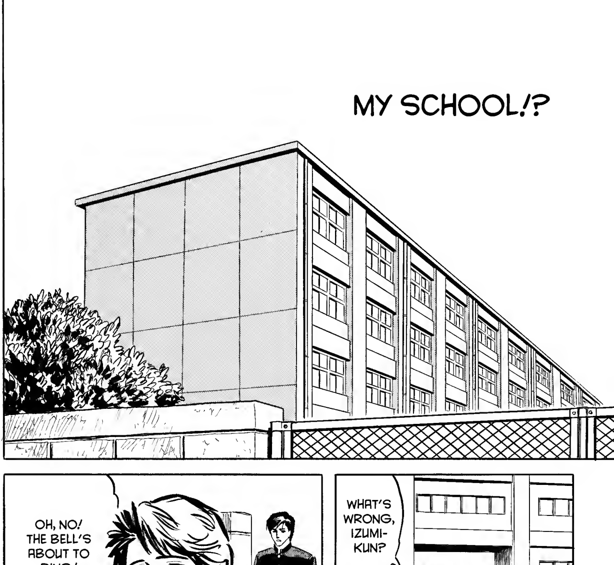

ヒュッ
TOSS
パクッ
CHOMP
MM.
AH.... AH...
BYE.
DAD .....!
WHAT IS IT?
SH-SHINICHI JUST PICKED UP A ROACH!
YEAH? SO WHAT?
SNIFF
HE DIDN'T USED TO BE LIKE THAT...
NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT.
WILL SHE NEVER GET OVER BEING SPOILED AS A CHILD?

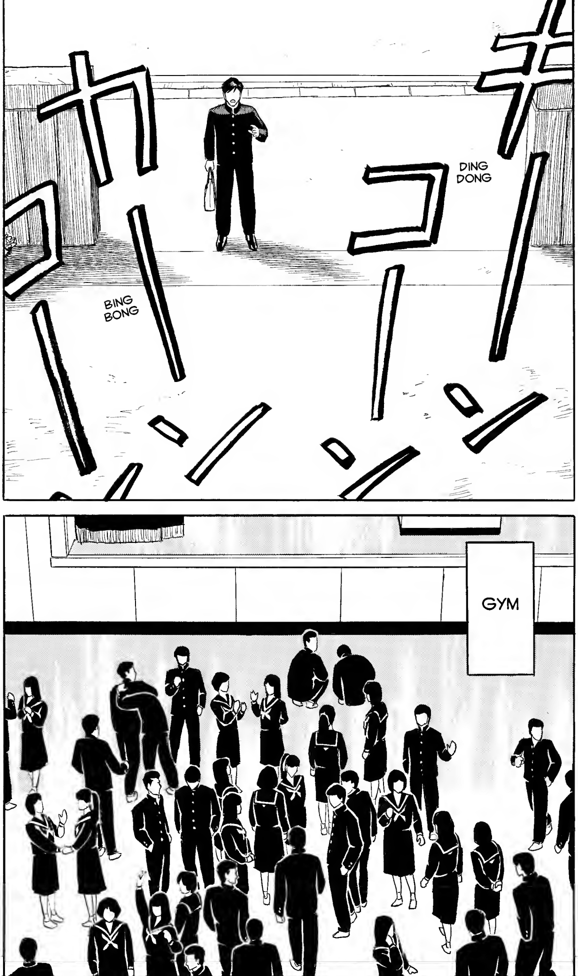

IZUMI-KUN.
MORNING.
YO.
THAT BASKETBALL GAME WAS REALLY COOL.
LIKE I SAID, JUST A FLUKE.
RECENTLY...
MM?
YOU'VE CHANGED.
HAVE I?
YOU SAID THAT TO ME ALREADY.
BUT YOU CHANGED AGAIN.
I FEEL LIKE I'M UNDER A MICROSCOPE...
SCARING THE CRAP OUT OF ME... HER HUNCHES ARE MUCH TOO GOOD. WHAT IF SHE FIGURED OUT ABOUT MY HAND?

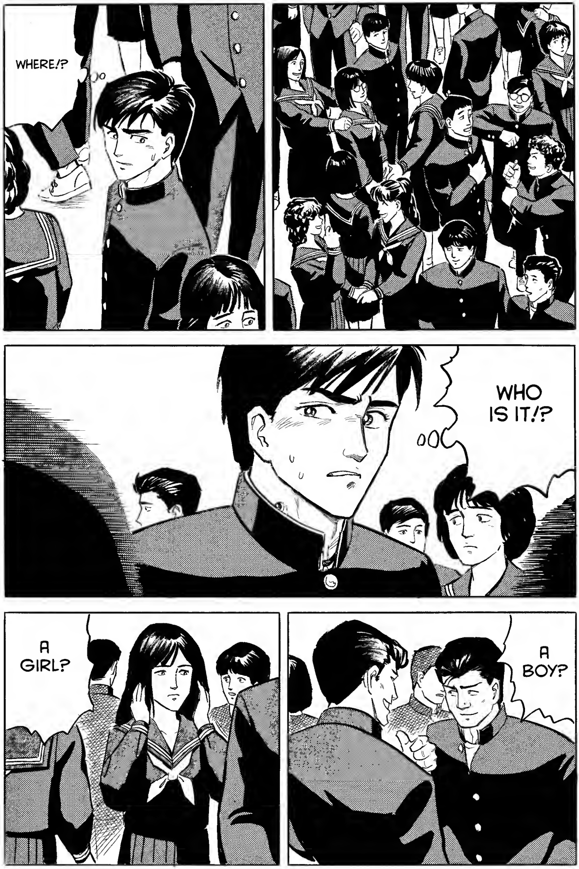

YOU'VE CHEERED UP, IZUMI-KUN.
OH? REALLY?
MURANO, YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY...
AWFULLY WHAT?
OH... NEVER MIND.
NO, REALLY, WHAT?
PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
TCT...TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR LOVEBIRDS.
SHINICHI.
EH?

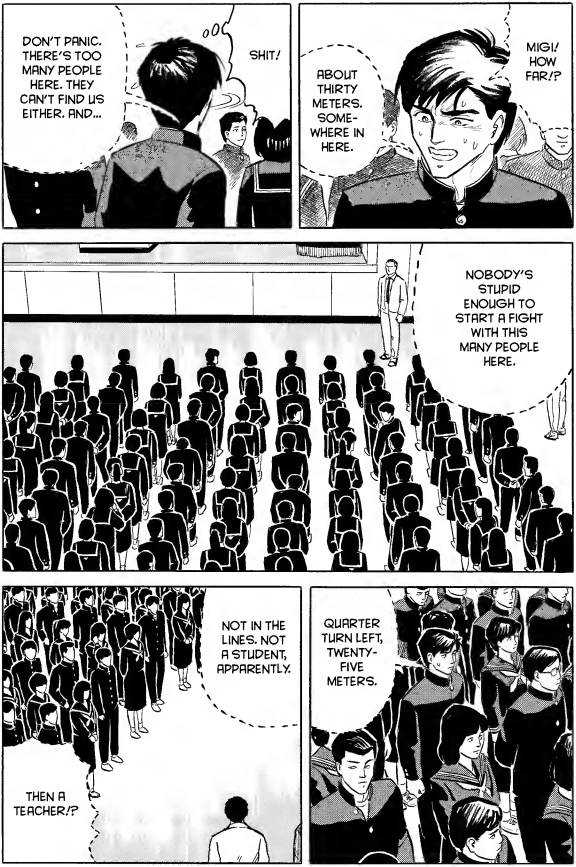

I COULD SWEAR I HEARD SOMETHING...
?
WEIRD...
DOWN HERE.
I'LL TALK QUIETLY. LISTEN CAREFULLY.
OH, NOTHING.
DAMMIT, MIGI! I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS TICKLING ME!
WHAT IS IT?

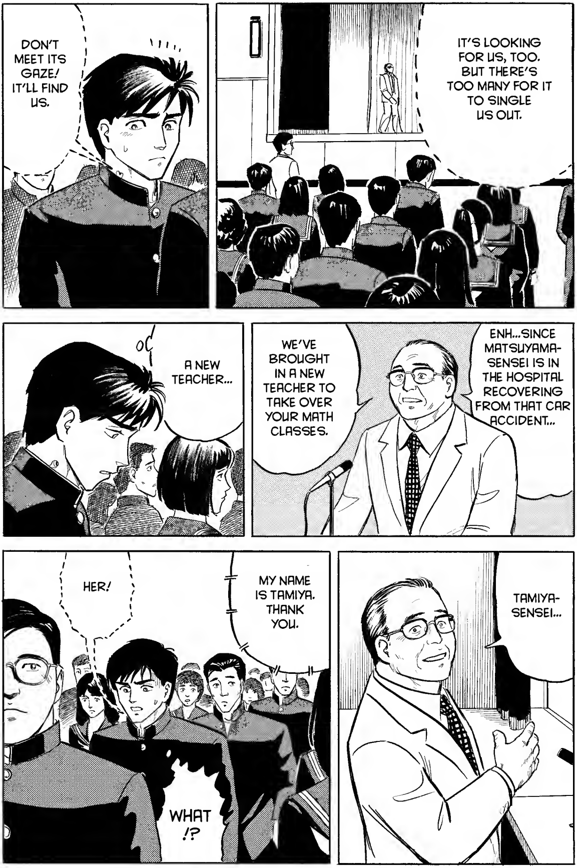

MY KIND IS NEARBY.
MM!?
AGAIN?
GETTING CLOSER.
THE PARASITES HAVE ONE OTHER ABILITY. THEY CAN SENSE EACH OTHER'S PRESENCE.
IF THERE'S ANOTHER PARASITE WITHIN 300 METERS, THEY CAN SENSE ITS BRAIN WAVES.
BUT, MIGI, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY MINCEMEAT MURDERS AROUND HERE.
MAYBE THEY JUST DIDN'T FIND THE BODIES.
WE'RE ABOUT SIXTY METERS AWAY... INSIDE THAT BUILDING.
OH, NO...

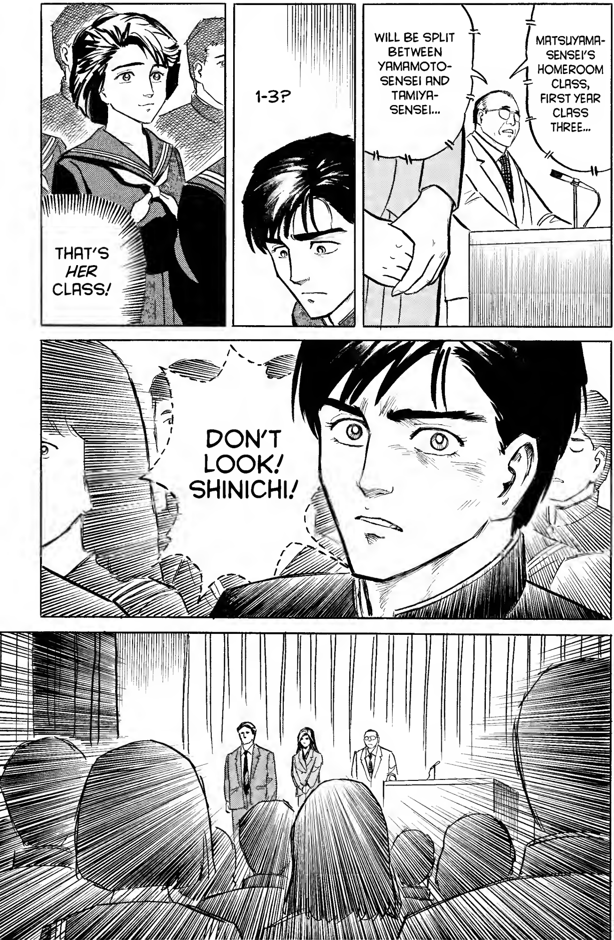

MY SCHOOL!?
WHAT'S WRONG, IZUMI-KUN?
OH, NO! THE BELL'S ABOUT TO RING!
SEE YA!
HEY!
W-WAIT!

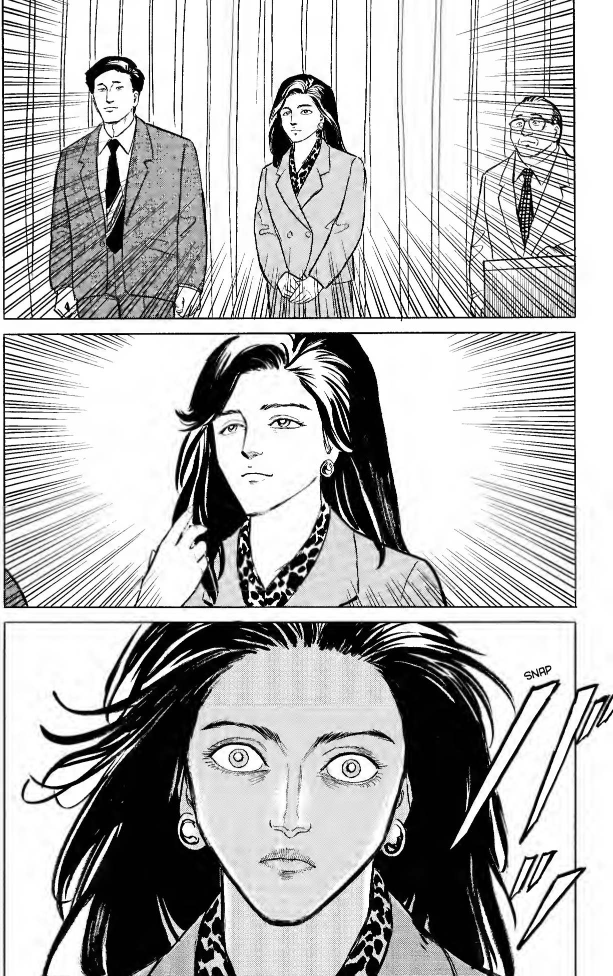

キーンコーン
DING DONG
カーンコーン
BING BONG
GYM

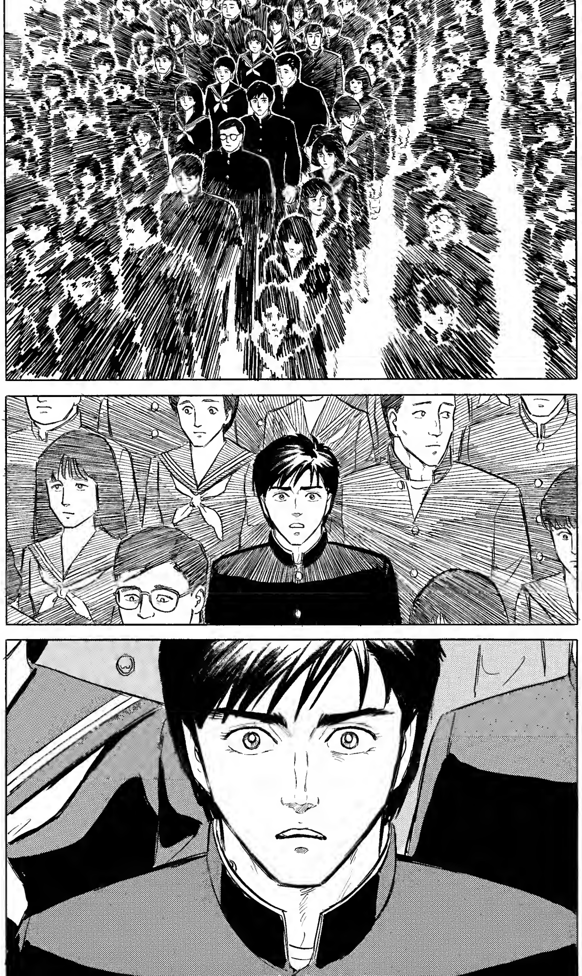

WHERE!?
WHO IS IT!?
A GIRL?
A BOY?

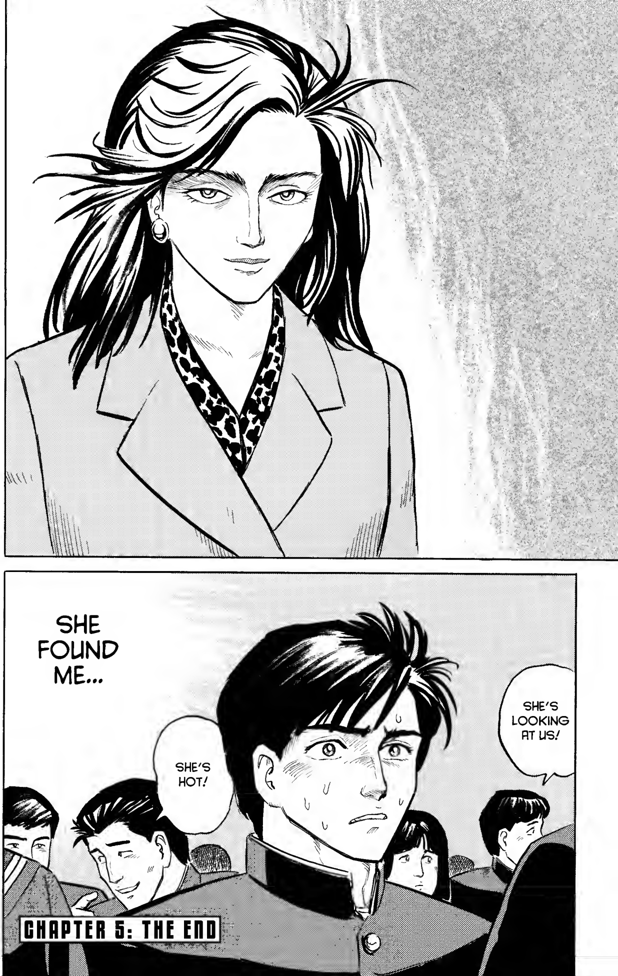

SHIT!
DON'T PANIC. THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE. THEY CAN'T FIND US EITHER. AND...
MIGI! HOW FAR!?
ABOUT THIRTY METERS. SOMEWHERE IN HERE.
NOBODY'S STUPID ENOUGH TO START A FIGHT WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE HERE.
NOT IN THE LINES. NOT A STUDENT, APPARENTLY.
THEN A TEACHER!?
QUARTER TURN LEFT, TWENTY-FIVE METERS.


IT'S LOOKING FOR US, TOO. BUT THERE'S TOO MANY FOR IT TO SINGLE US OUT.
DON'T MEET ITS GAZE! IT'LL FIND US.
ENH...SINCE MATSUYAMA-SENSEI IS IN THE HOSPITAL RECOVERING FROM THAT CAR ACCIDENT...
WE'VE BROUGHT IN A NEW TEACHER TO TAKE OVER YOUR MATH CLASSES.
A NEW TEACHER...
TAMIYA-SENSEI...
MY NAME IS TAMIYA. THANK YOU.
HER!
WHAT !?

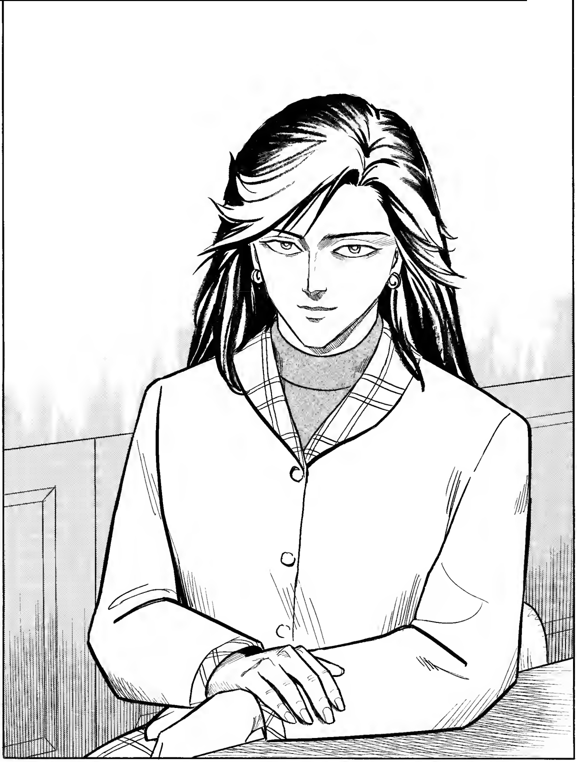

MATSUYAMA-SENSEI'S HOMEROOM CLASS, FIRST YEAR CLASS THREE...
WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN YAMAMOTO-SENSEI AND TAMIYA-SENSEI...
1-3?
THAT'S *HER* CLASS!
DON'T LOOK! SHINICHI!

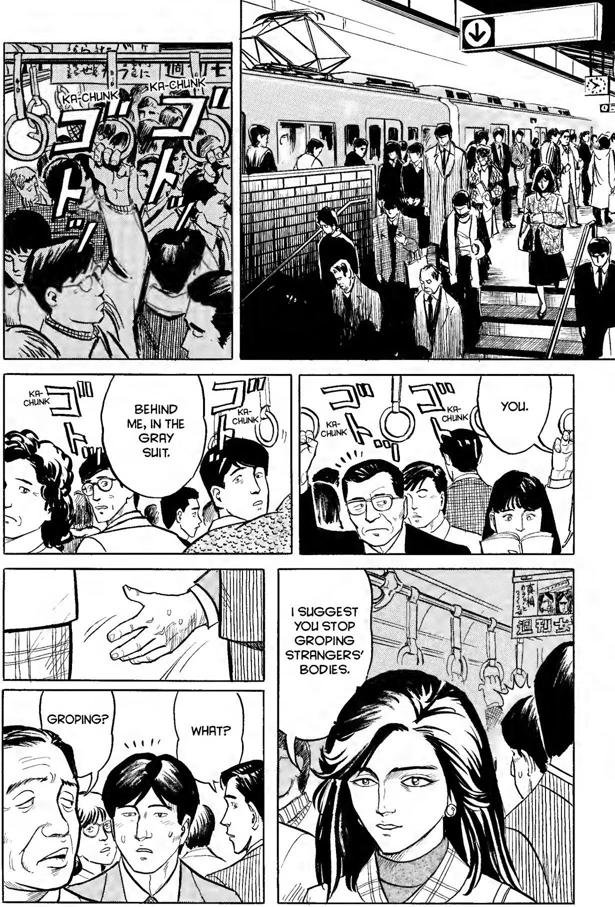

SNAP

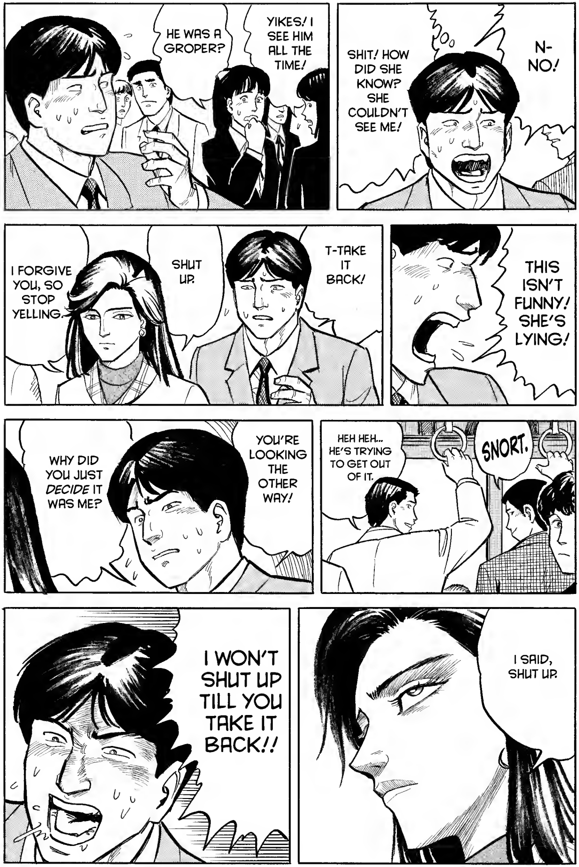


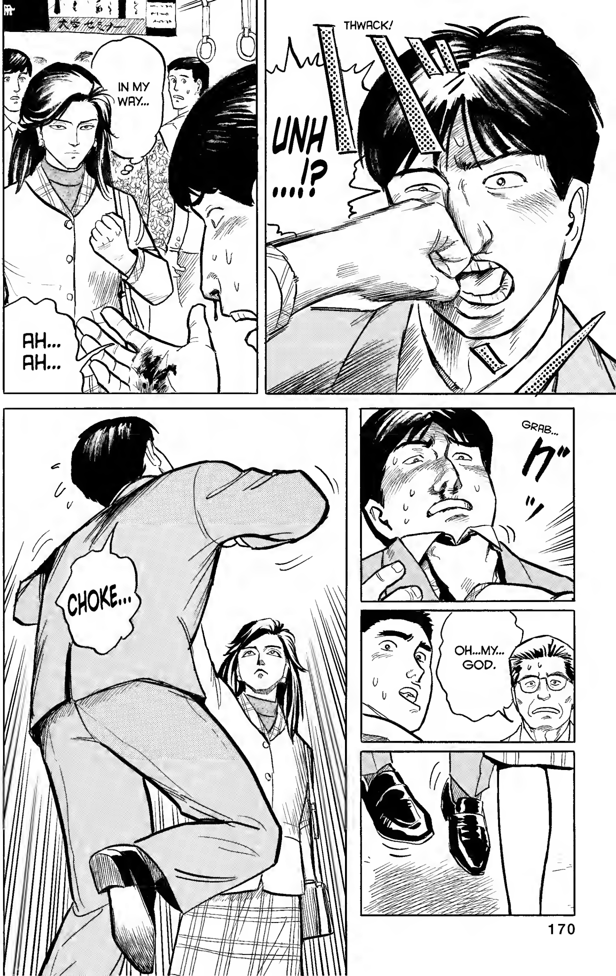

SHE'S LOOKING AT US!
SHE'S HOT!
SHE FOUND ME...
CHAPTER 5: THE END

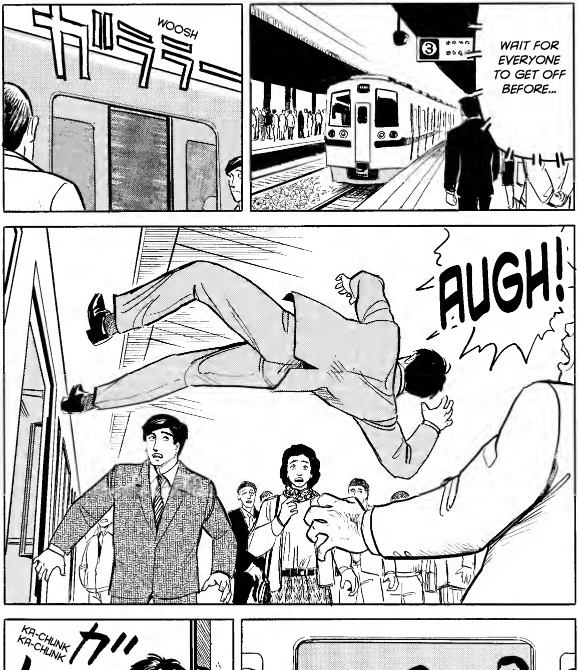
CHAPTER 6: TAMIYA RYŌKO

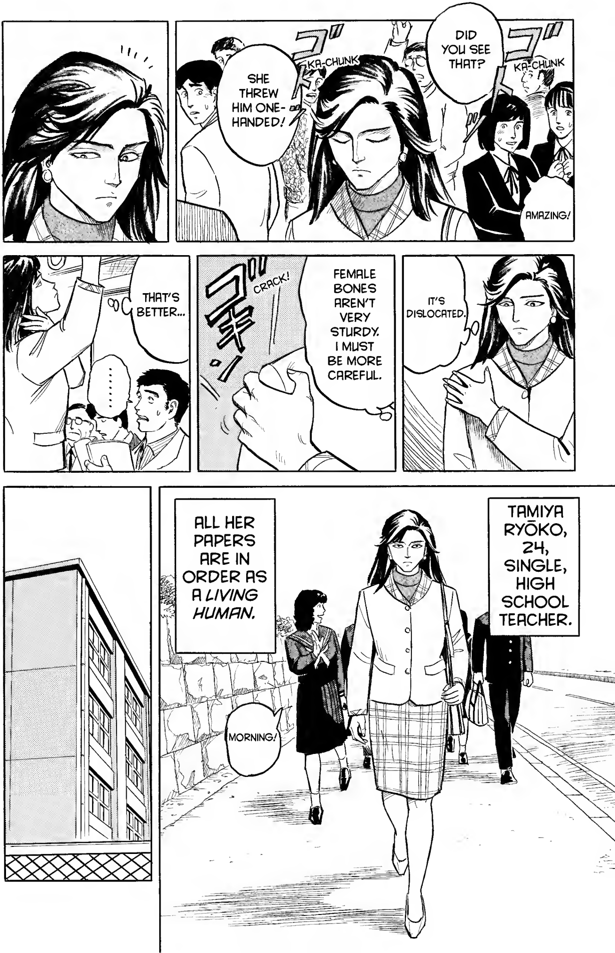


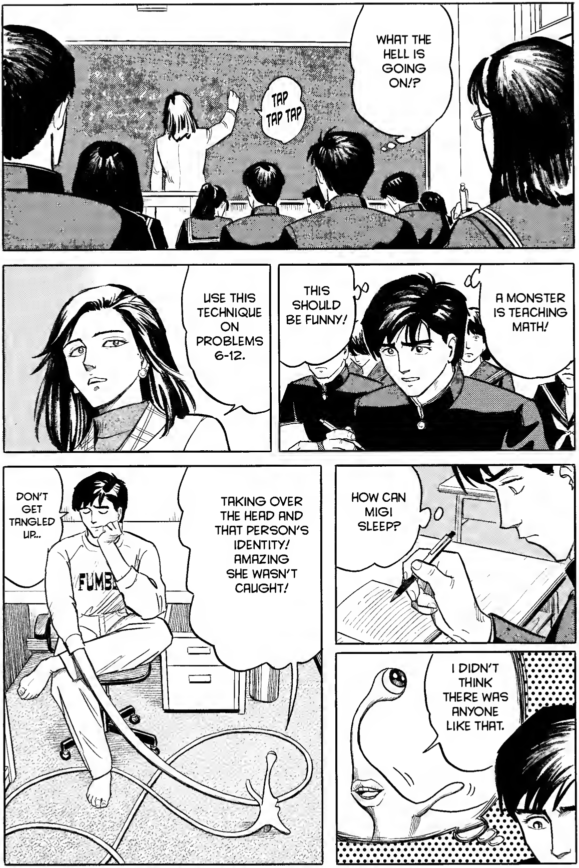

KA-CHUNK
ゴトッ
KA-CHUNK
ゴトッ
KA-CHUNK
ゴトッ
KA-CHUNK
ゴトッ
YOU.
KA-CHUNK
ゴトッ
KA-CHUNK
ゴトッ
BEHIND ME, IN THE GRAY SUIT.
I SUGGEST YOU STOP GROPING STRANGERS' BODIES.
週刊女
WHAT?
GROPING?

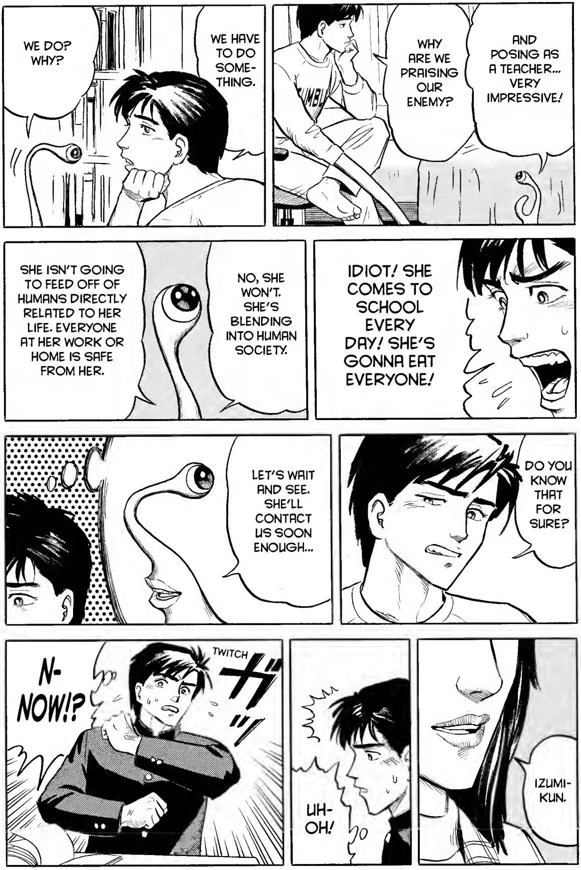

HE WAS A GROPER?
YIKES! I SEE HIM ALL THE TIME!
SHIT! HOW DID SHE KNOW? SHE COULDN'T SEE ME!
N-NO!
I FORGIVE YOU, SO STOP YELLING.
SHUT UP.
T-TAKE IT BACK!
THIS ISN'T FUNNY! SHE'S LYING!
WHY DID YOU JUST *DECIDE* IT WAS ME?
YOU'RE LOOKING THE OTHER WAY!
HEH HEH... HE'S TRYING TO GET OUT OF IT.
SNORT.
I WON'T SHUT UP TILL YOU TAKE IT BACK!!
I SAID, SHUT UP.

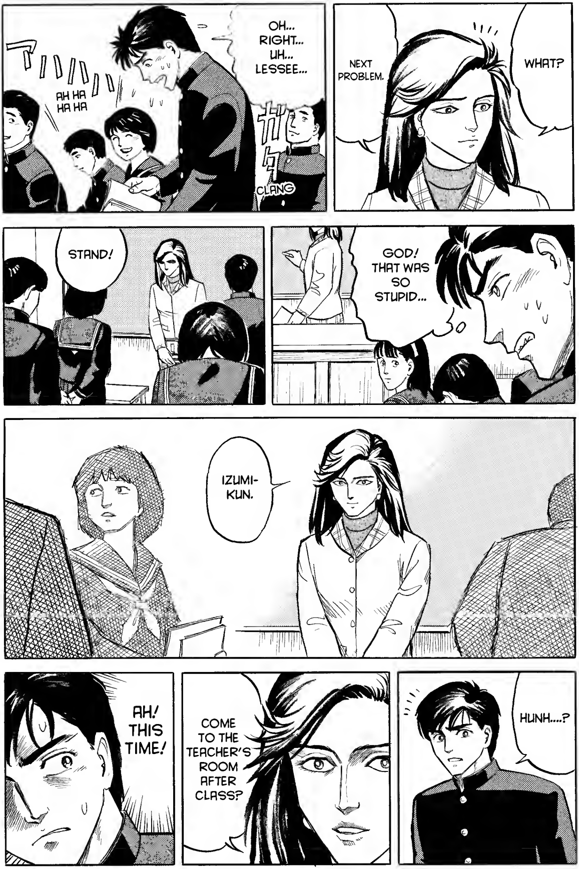

THWACK!
UNH ....!?
IN MY WAY...
AH... AH...
GRAB...
グッ
OH...MY... GOD.
CHOKE...

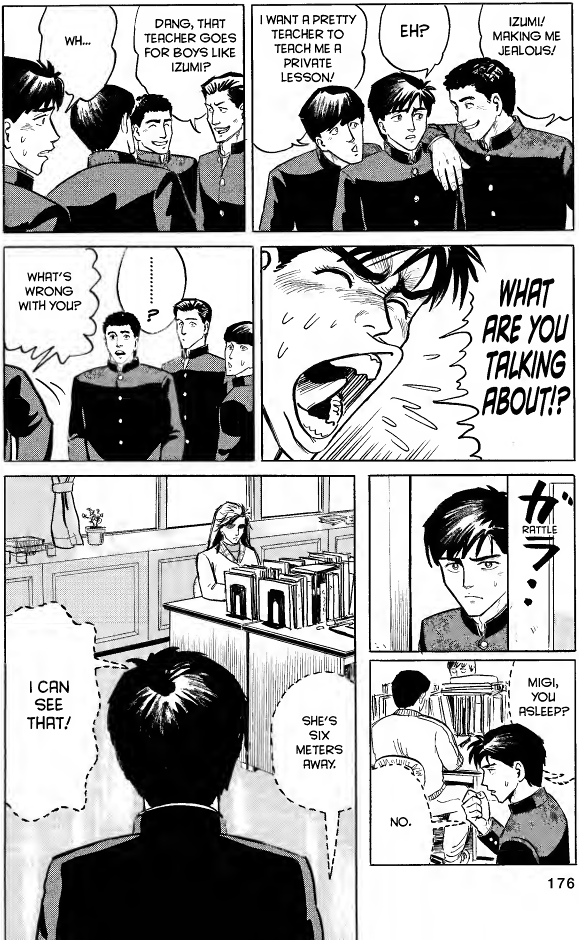

WAIT FOR EVERYONE TO GET OFF BEFORE...
3
ガラララー
WOOSH
AUGH!
ガラララ
ドンッ
KA-CHUNK KA-CHUNK

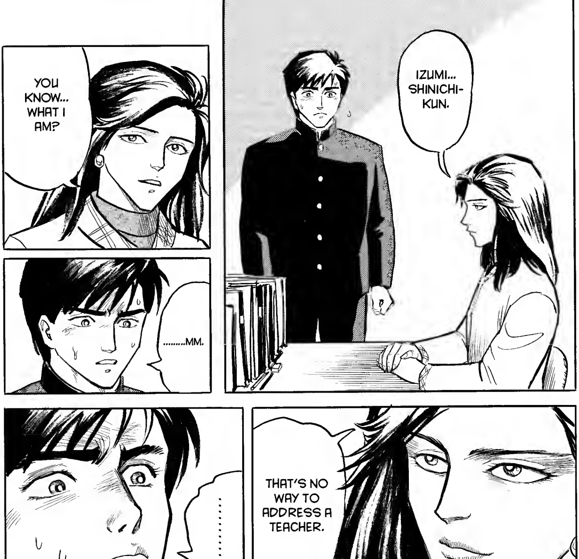

KA-CHUNK
DID YOU SEE THAT?
KA-CHUNK
SHE THREW HIM ONE-HANDED!
AMAZING!
IT'S DISLOCATED.
CRACK!
FEMALE BONES AREN'T VERY STURDY. I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL.
THAT'S BETTER...
......
TAMIYA RYŌKO, 24, SINGLE, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER.
ALL HER PAPERS ARE IN ORDER AS A *LIVING HUMAN.*
MORNING!

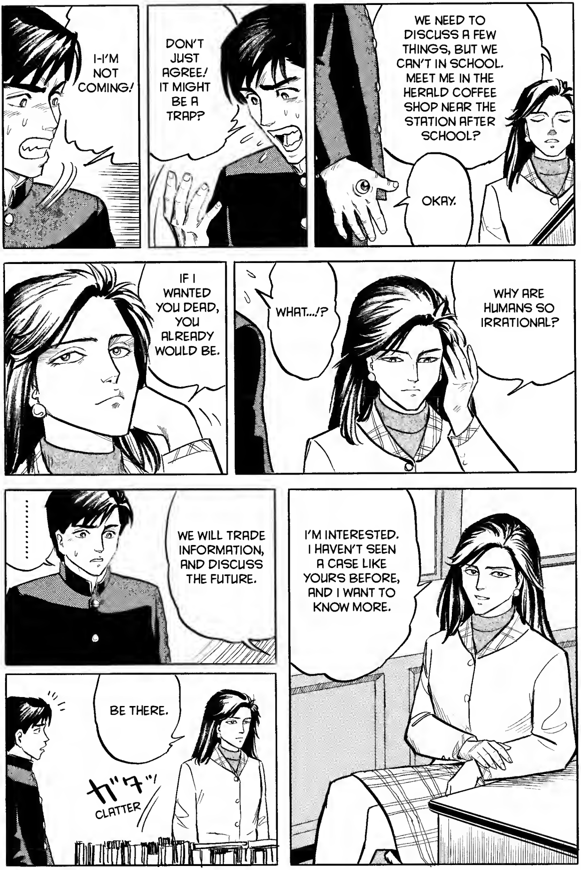

TAP TAP TAP
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?
USE THIS TECHNIQUE ON PROBLEMS 6-12.
THIS SHOULD BE FUNNY!
A MONSTER IS TEACHING MATH!
DON'T GET TANGLED UP...
FUMB
TAKING OVER THE HEAD AND THAT PERSON'S IDENTITY! AMAZING SHE WASN'T CAUGHT!
HOW CAN MIGI SLEEP?
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYONE LIKE THAT.

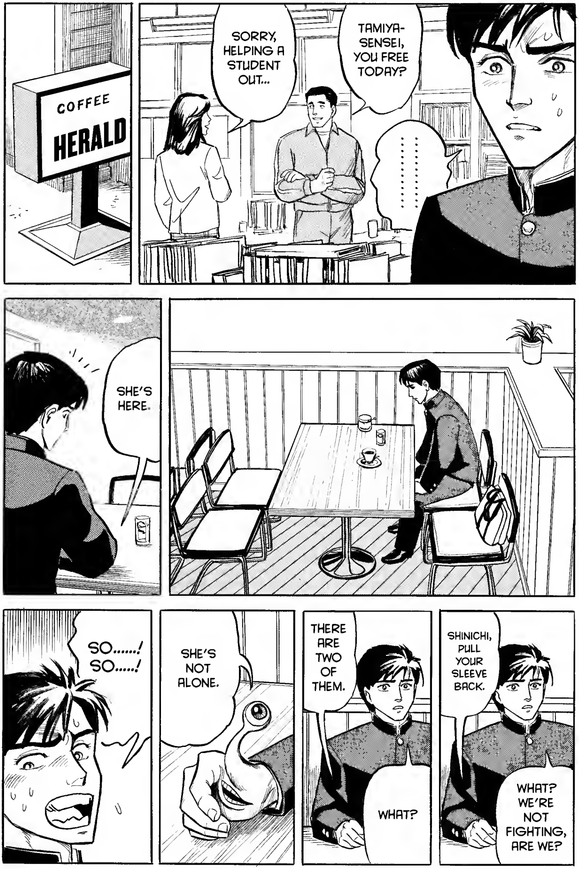

AND POSING AS A TEACHER... VERY IMPRESSIVE!
WHY ARE WE PRAISING OUR ENEMY?
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
WE DO? WHY?
IDIOT! SHE COMES TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY! SHE'S GONNA EAT EVERYONE!
NO, SHE WON'T. SHE'S BLENDING INTO HUMAN SOCIETY.
SHE ISN'T GOING TO FEED OFF OF HUMANS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HER LIFE. EVERYONE AT HER WORK OR HOME IS SAFE FROM HER.
DO YOU KNOW THAT FOR SURE?
LET'S WAIT AND SEE. SHE'LL CONTACT US SOON ENOUGH...
IZUMI-KUN.
UH-OH!
TWITCH
N-NOW!?

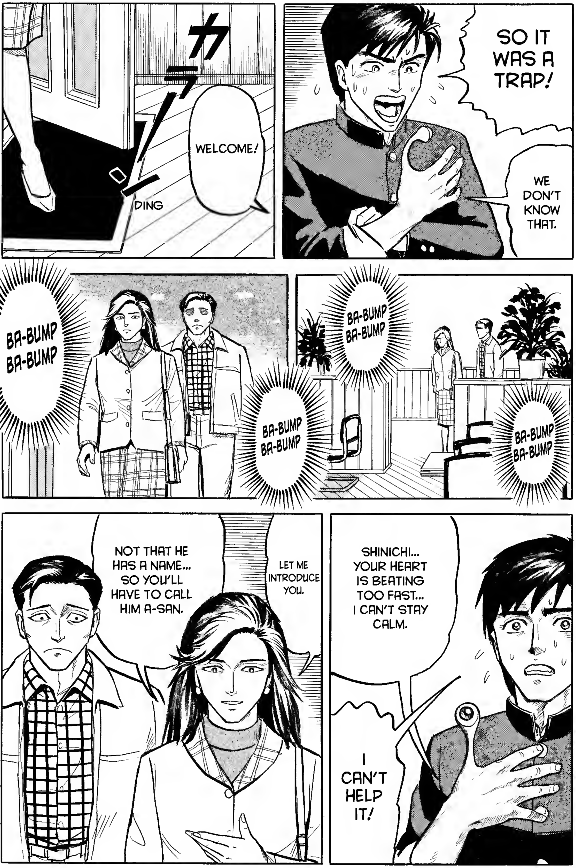

アハハハ
AH HA HA HA
OH... RIGHT... UH... LESSEE...
ガタ
CLANG
NEXT PROBLEM.
WHAT?
STAND!
GOD! THAT WAS SO STUPID...
IZUMI-KUN.
AH! THIS TIME!
COME TO THE TEACHER'S ROOM AFTER CLASS?
HUNH....?

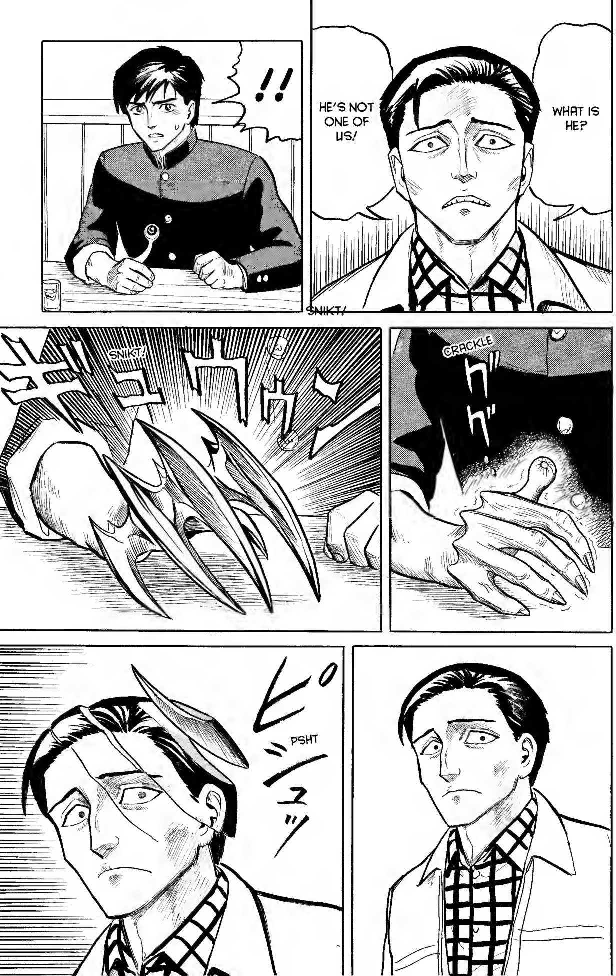

IZUMI! MAKING ME JEALOUS!
EH?
I WANT A PRETTY TEACHER TO TEACH ME A PRIVATE LESSON!
DANG, THAT TEACHER GOES FOR BOYS LIKE IZUMI?
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
..........?
ガラ
RATTLE
MIGI, YOU ASLEEP?
NO.
SHE'S SIX METERS AWAY.
I CAN SEE THAT!

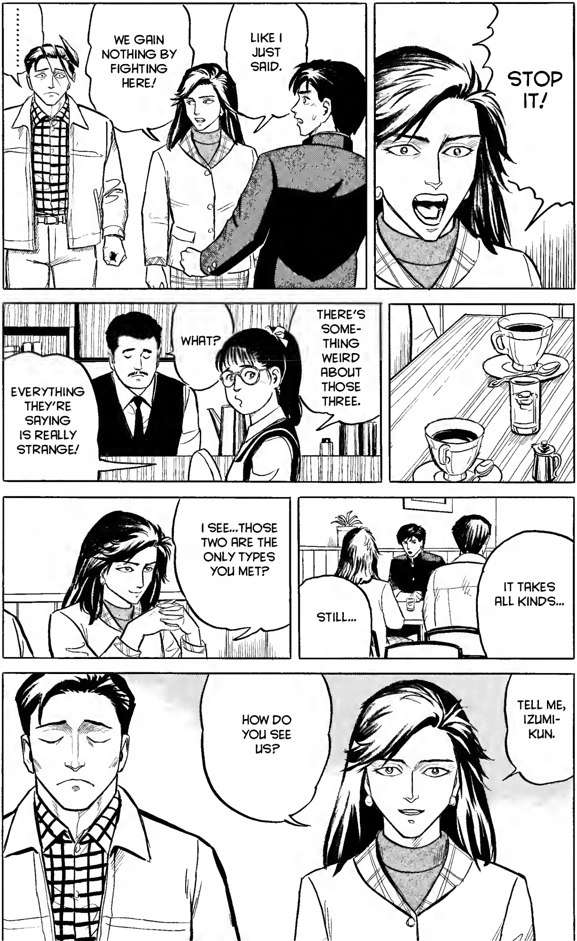

IZUMI... SHINICHI-KUN.
YOU KNOW... WHAT I AM?
.........MM.
THAT'S NO WAY TO ADDRESS A TEACHER.
....
DON'T BE SO STIFF. YOUR HAND WILL CONFIRM I INTEND YOU NO HARM.
ANYWAY, IF WE FOUGHT AT THIS DISTANCE, NEITHER OF US WOULD SURVIVE.

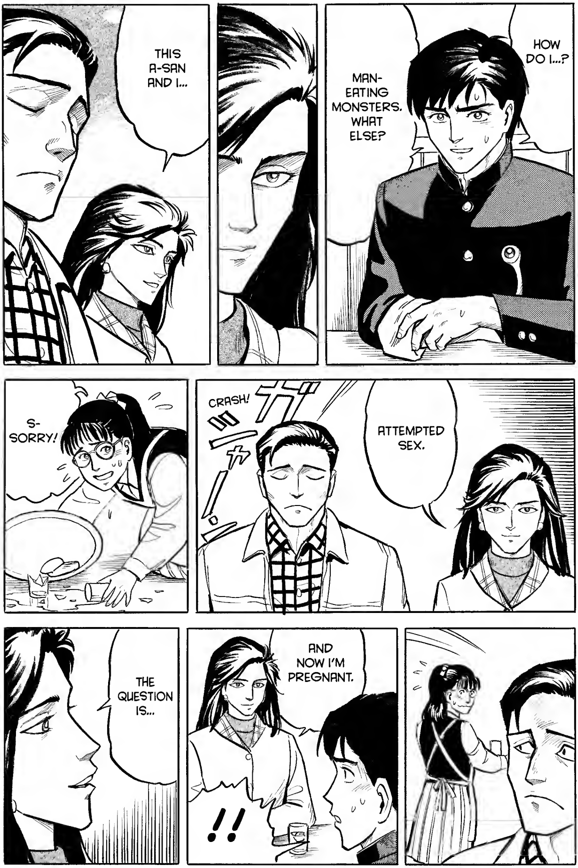

WE NEED TO DISCUSS A FEW THINGS, BUT WE CAN'T IN SCHOOL. MEET ME IN THE HERALD COFFEE SHOP NEAR THE STATION AFTER SCHOOL?
OKAY.
DON'T JUST AGREE! IT MIGHT BE A TRAP?
I-I'M NOT COMING!
WHY ARE HUMANS SO IRRATIONAL?
WHAT...!?
IF I WANTED YOU DEAD, YOU ALREADY WOULD BE.
I'M INTERESTED. I HAVEN'T SEEN A CASE LIKE YOURS BEFORE, AND I WANT TO KNOW MORE.
WE WILL TRADE INFORMATION, AND DISCUSS THE FUTURE.
……
BE THERE.
ガタッ
CLATTER

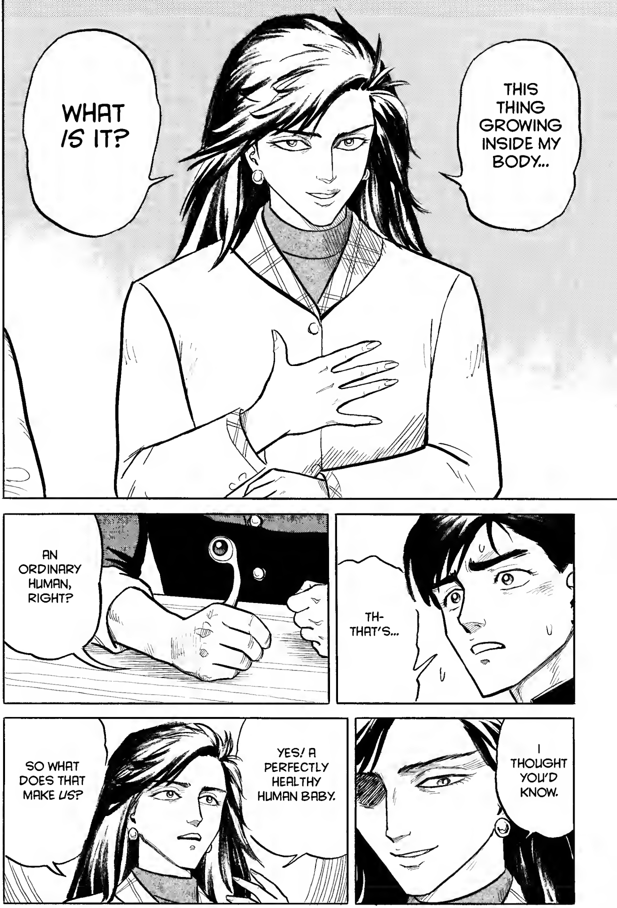

COFFEE
HERALD
TAMIYA-SENSEI, YOU FREE TODAY?
SORRY, HELPING A STUDENT OUT...
......
SHE'S HERE.
SO......! SO.....!
SHE'S NOT ALONE.
THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.
WHAT?
SHINICHI, PULL YOUR SLEEVE BACK.
WHAT? WE'RE NOT FIGHTING, ARE WE?

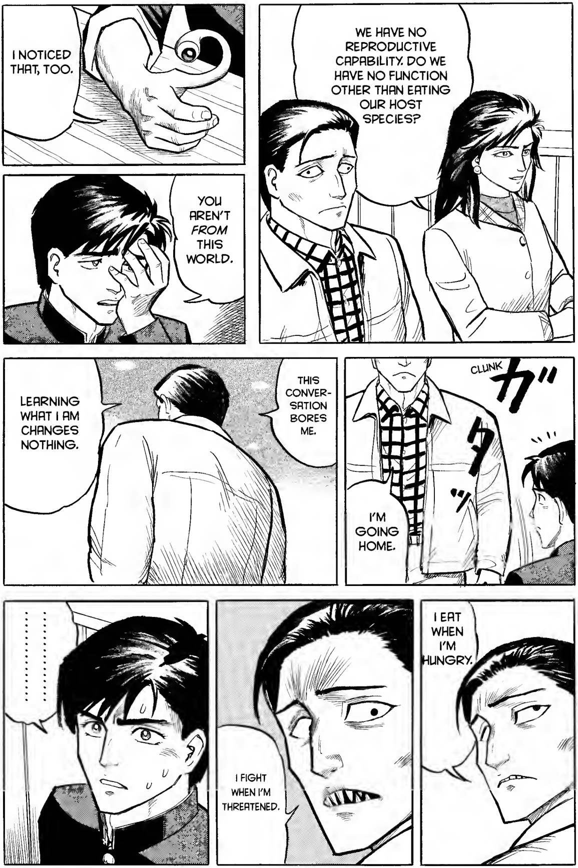

SO IT WAS A TRAP!
WE DON'T KNOW THAT.
カラ
DING
WELCOME!
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
SHINICHI... YOUR HEART IS BEATING TOO FAST... I CAN'T STAY CALM.
I CAN'T HELP IT!
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.
NOT THAT HE HAS A NAME... SO YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL HIM A-SAN.

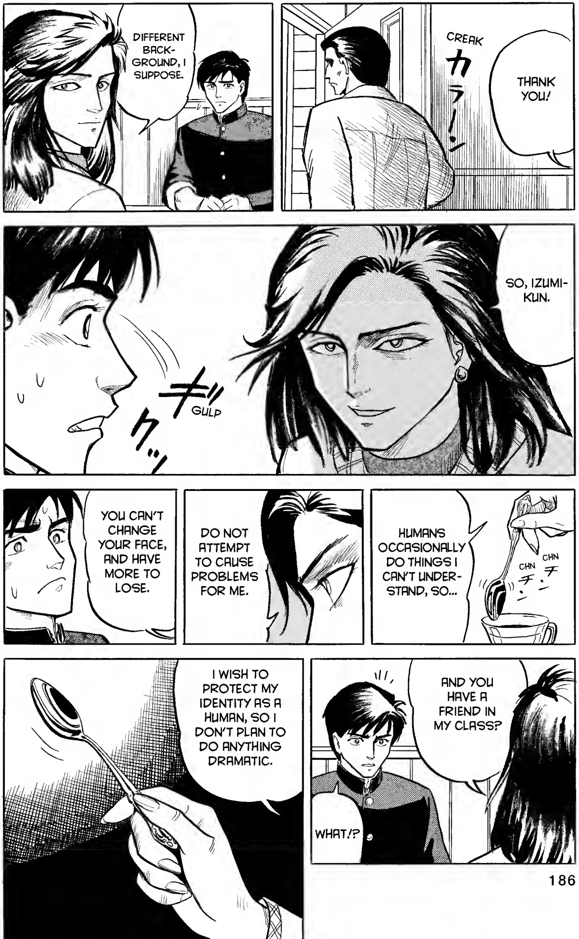

WHAT IS HE?
HE'S NOT ONE OF US!
!!
SNIKT!
CRACKLE
ゴゴ
SNIKT!
ギュウウ
ピュッ
PSHT

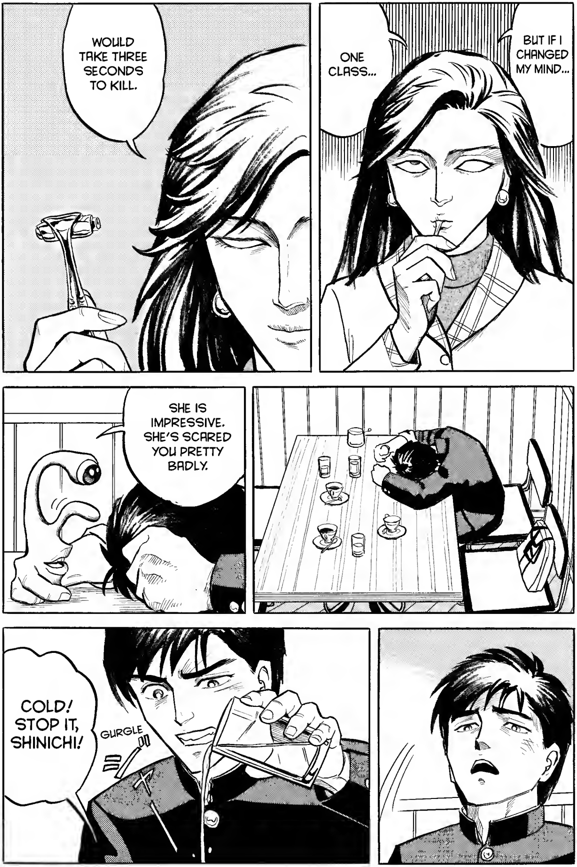

......
WE GAIN NOTHING BY FIGHTING HERE!
LIKE I JUST SAID.
STOP IT!
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THOSE THREE.
WHAT?
EVERYTHING THEY'RE SAYING IS REALLY STRANGE!
I SEE...THOSE TWO ARE THE ONLY TYPES YOU MET?
IT TAKES ALL KINDS...
STILL...
TELL ME, IZUMI-KUN.
HOW DO YOU SEE US?

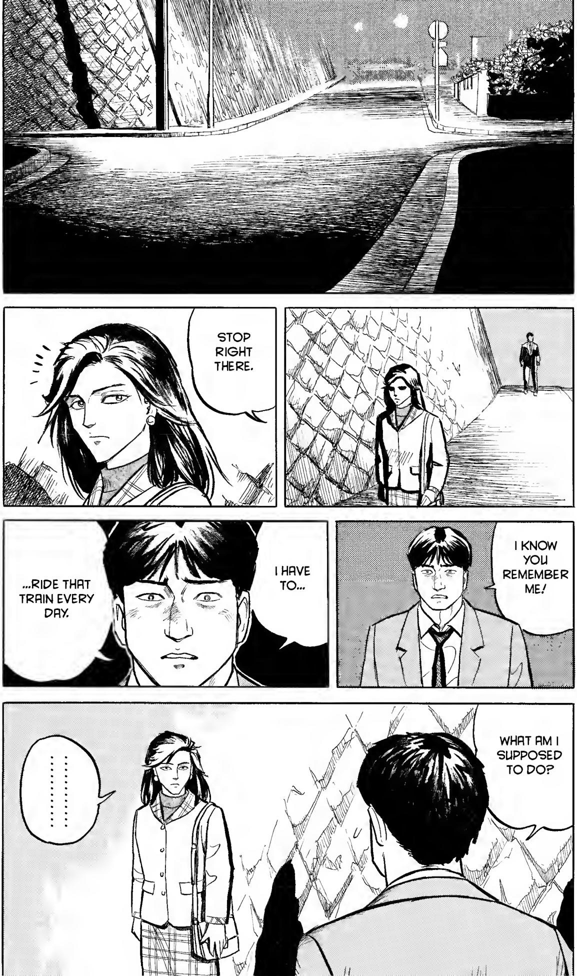

HOW DO I...?
MAN-EATING MONSTERS. WHAT ELSE?
THIS A-SAN AND I...
ATTEMPTED SEX.
CRASH!
S-SORRY!
AND NOW I'M PREGNANT.
!!
THE QUESTION IS...

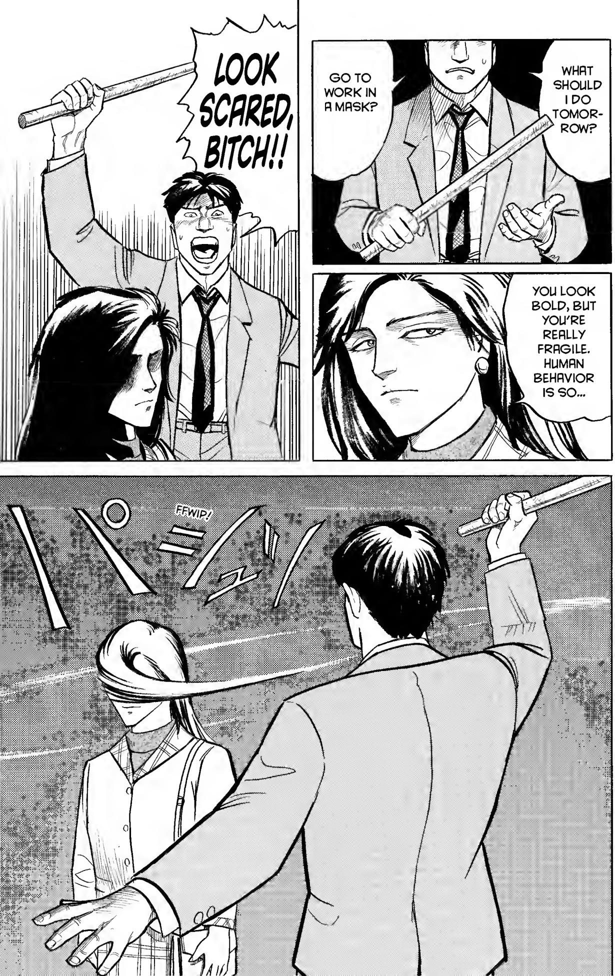

THIS THING GROWING INSIDE MY BODY...
WHAT *IS* IT?
TH- THAT'S...
AN ORDINARY HUMAN, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW.
YES! A PERFECTLY HEALTHY HUMAN BABY.
SO WHAT DOES THAT MAKE *US*?

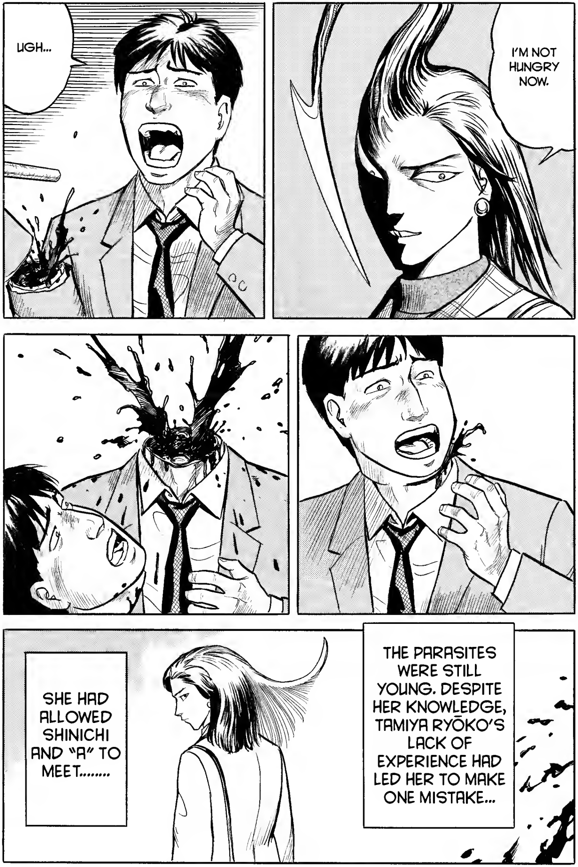

WE HAVE NO REPRODUCTIVE CAPABILITY. DO WE HAVE NO FUNCTION OTHER THAN EATING OUR HOST SPECIES?
I NOTICED THAT, TOO.
YOU AREN'T *FROM* THIS WORLD.
CLUNK
ガタッ
I'M GOING HOME.
THIS CONVERSATION BORES ME.
LEARNING WHAT I AM CHANGES NOTHING.
I EAT WHEN I'M HUNGRY.
I FIGHT WHEN I'M THREATENED.
......


DIFFERENT BACKGROUND, I SUPPOSE.
CREAK カラ…
THANK YOU!
SO, IZUMI-KUN.
GULP
YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOUR FACE, AND HAVE MORE TO LOSE.
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ME.
HUMANS OCCASIONALLY DO THINGS I CAN'T UNDERSTAND, SO...
CHN チ CHN チ
I WISH TO PROTECT MY IDENTITY AS A HUMAN, SO I DON'T PLAN TO DO ANYTHING DRAMATIC.
AND YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN MY CLASS?
WHAT!?

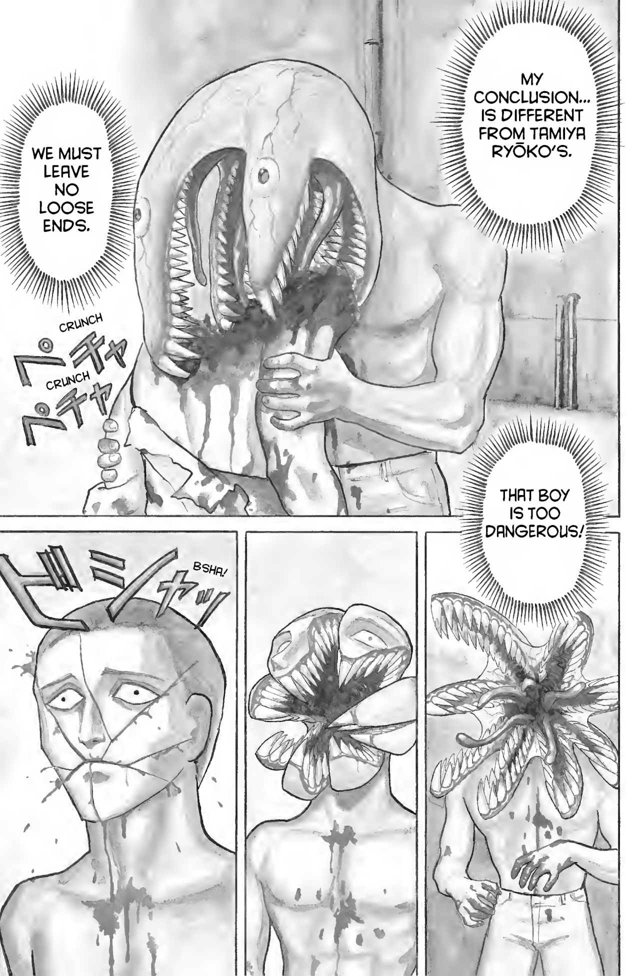

BUT IF I CHANGED MY MIND...
ONE CLASS...
WOULD TAKE THREE SECONDS TO KILL.
SHE IS IMPRESSIVE. SHE'S SCARED YOU PRETTY BADLY.
GURGLE
COLD! STOP IT, SHINICHI!

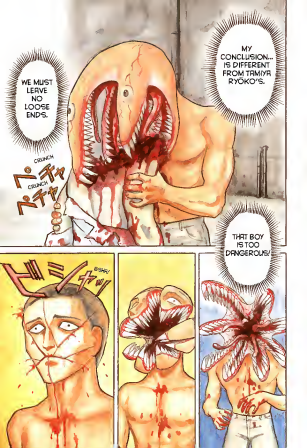

STOP RIGHT THERE.
I KNOW YOU REMEMBER ME!
I HAVE TO...
...RIDE THAT TRAIN EVERY DAY.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
......


WHAT SHOULD I DO TOMORROW?
GO TO WORK IN A MASK?
YOU LOOK BOLD, BUT YOU'RE REALLY FRAGILE. HUMAN BEHAVIOR IS SO...
LOOK SCARED, BITCH!!
FFWIP!

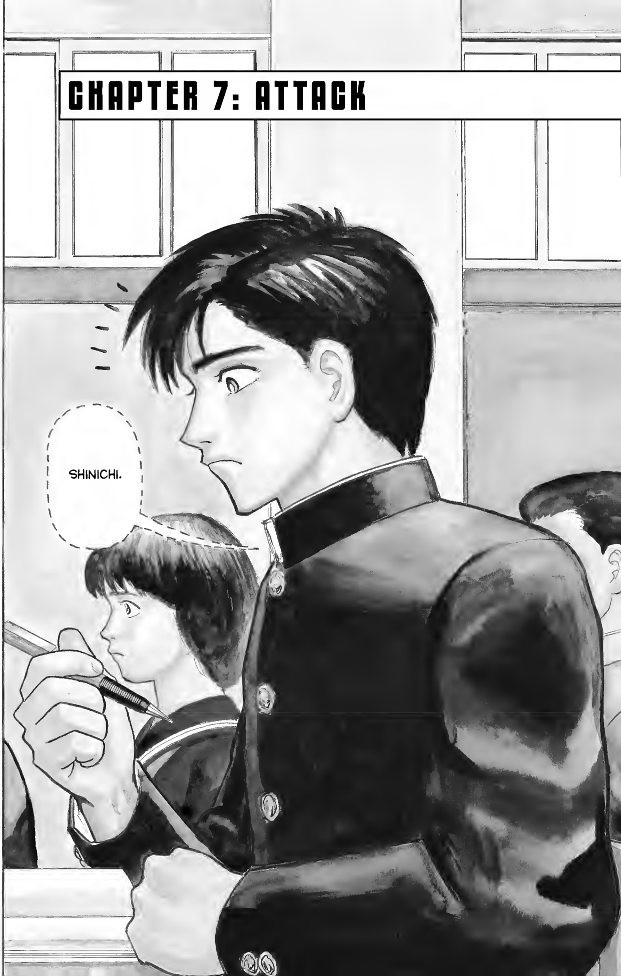

UGH...
I'M NOT HUNGRY NOW.
SHE HAD ALLOWED SHINICHI AND "A" TO MEET........
THE PARASITES WERE STILL YOUNG. DESPITE HER KNOWLEDGE, TAMIYA RYŌKO'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE HAD LED HER TO MAKE ONE MISTAKE...

CHAPTER 6: THE END

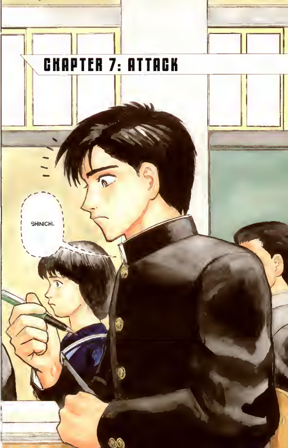

MY CONCLUSION... IS DIFFERENT FROM TAMIYA RYŌKO'S.
WE MUST LEAVE NO LOOSE ENDS.
ペチャ
CRUNCH
ペチャ
CRUNCH
THAT BOY IS TOO DANGEROUS!
BSHA!

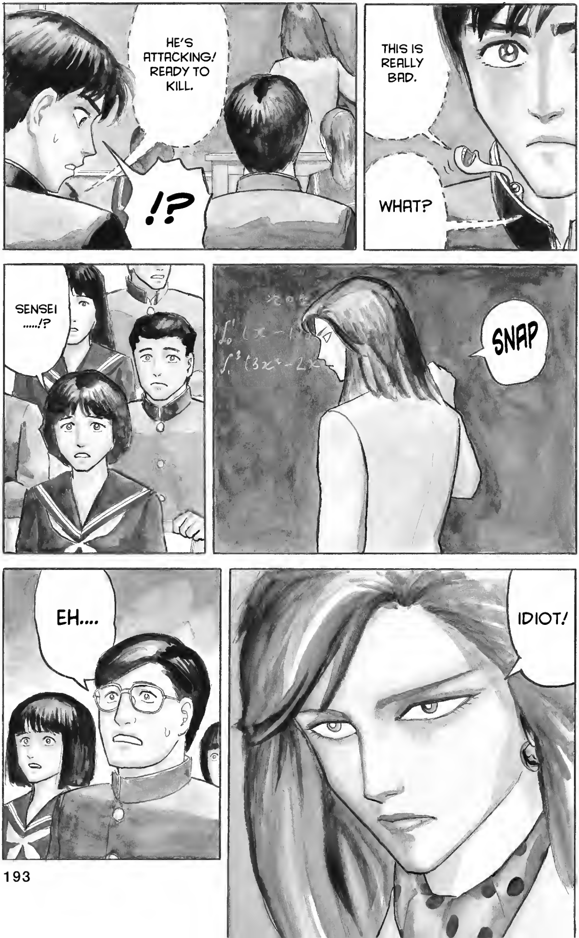

MY CONCLUSION... IS DIFFERENT FROM TAMIYA RYŌKO'S.
WE MUST LEAVE NO LOOSE ENDS.
CRUNCH
ペチャ
CRUNCH
ペチャ
THAT BOY IS TOO DANGEROUS!
ビシャッ
BSHA!

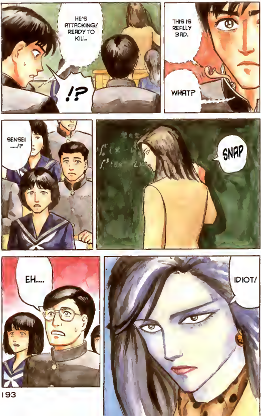
CHAPTER 7: ATTACK

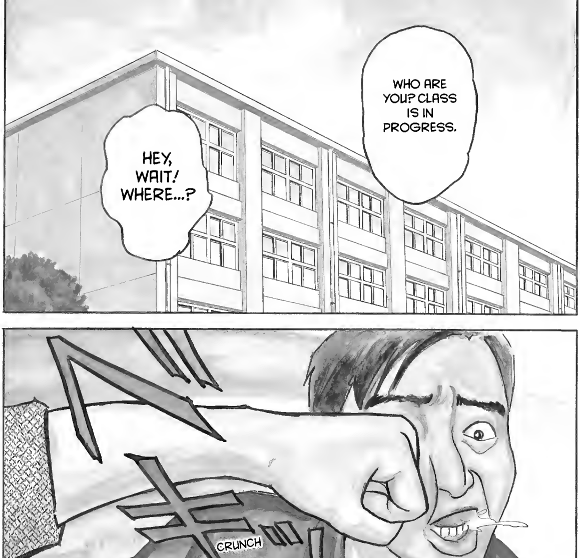


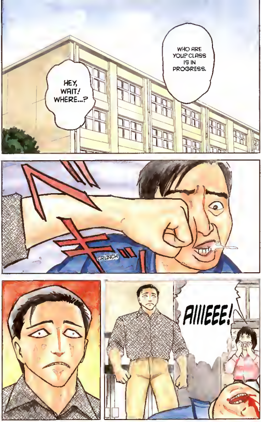
CHAPTER 7: ATTACK

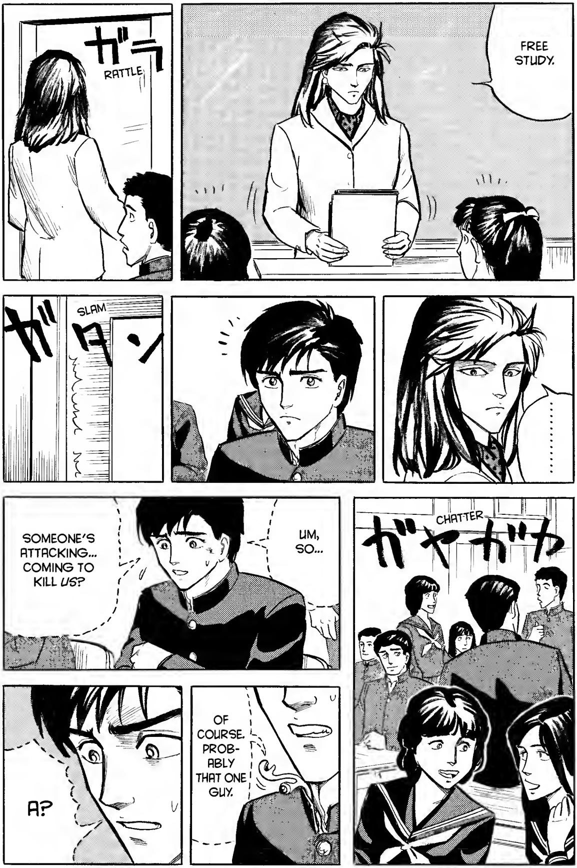


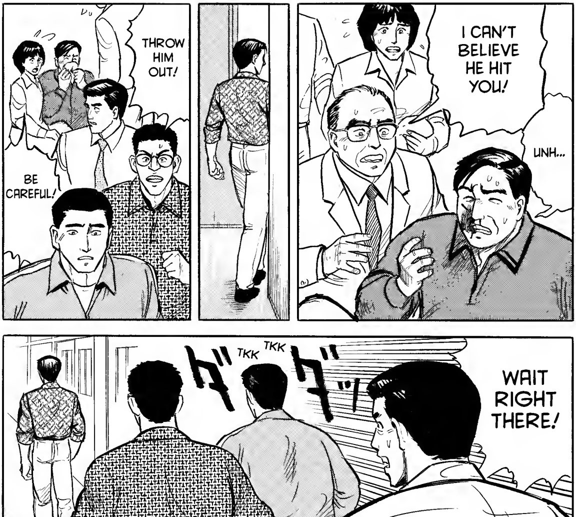

THIS IS REALLY BAD.
WHAT?
HE'S ATTACKING! READY TO KILL.
!?
SNAP
SENSEI ......!?
IDIOT!
EH....

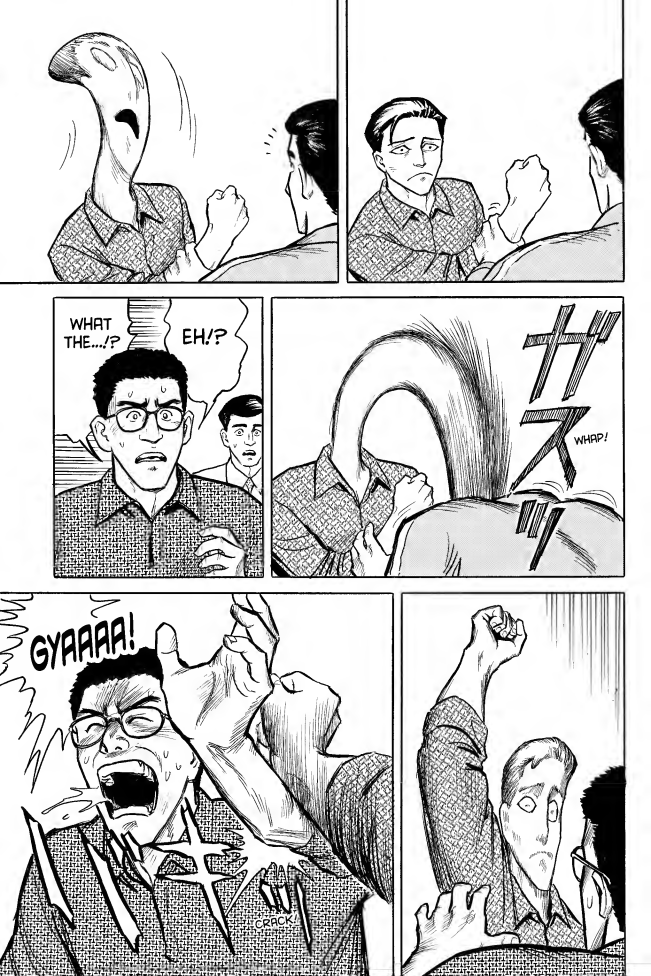

HE'S ATTACKING! READY TO KILL.
!?
THIS IS REALLY BAD.
WHAT?
SENSEI ....!?
SNAP
EH....
IDIOT!

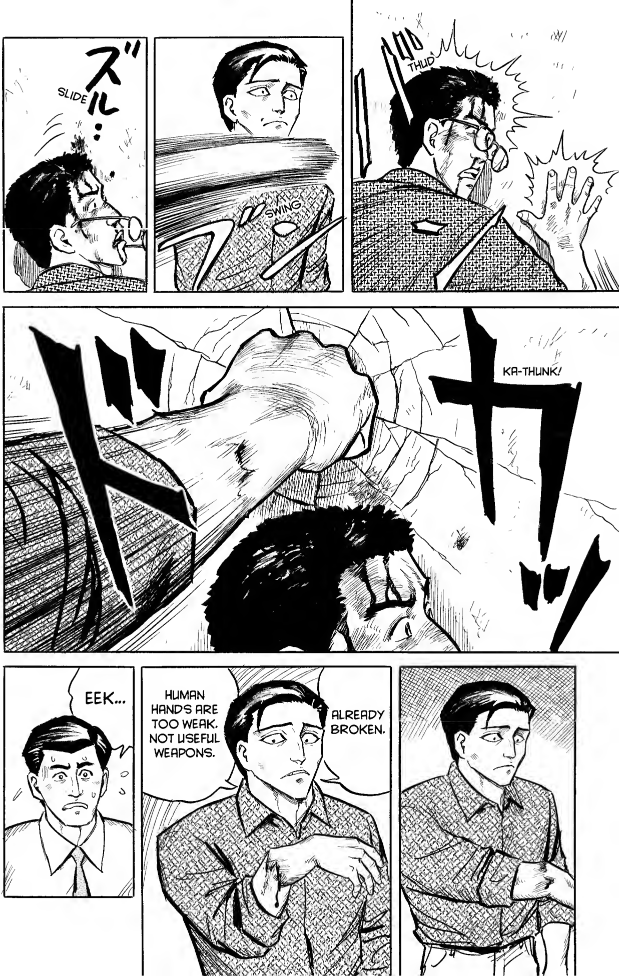

WHO ARE YOU? CLASS IS IN PROGRESS.
HEY, WAIT! WHERE...?
CRUNCH
AIIIEEE!

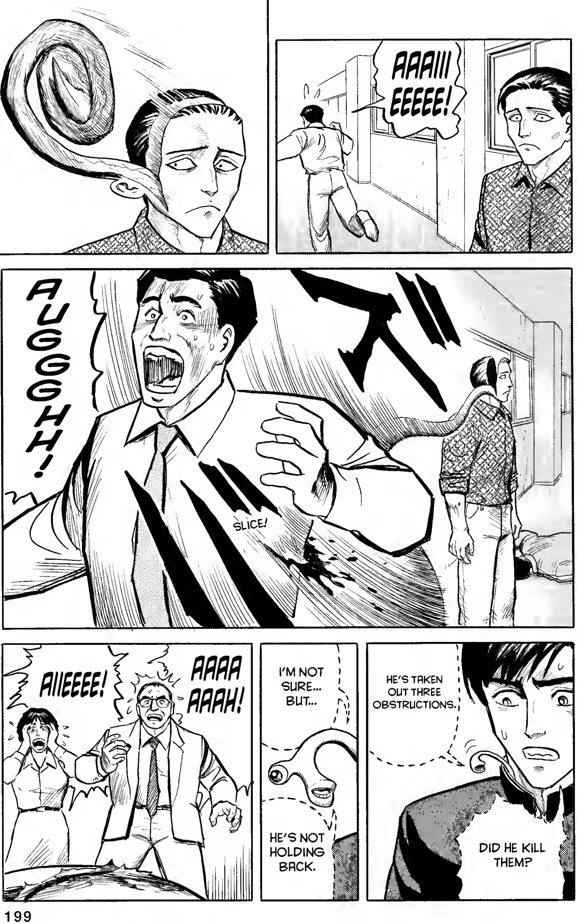

WHO ARE YOU? CLASS IS IN PROGRESS.
HEY, WAIT! WHERE...?
バキッ
CRUNCH
AIIIEEE!

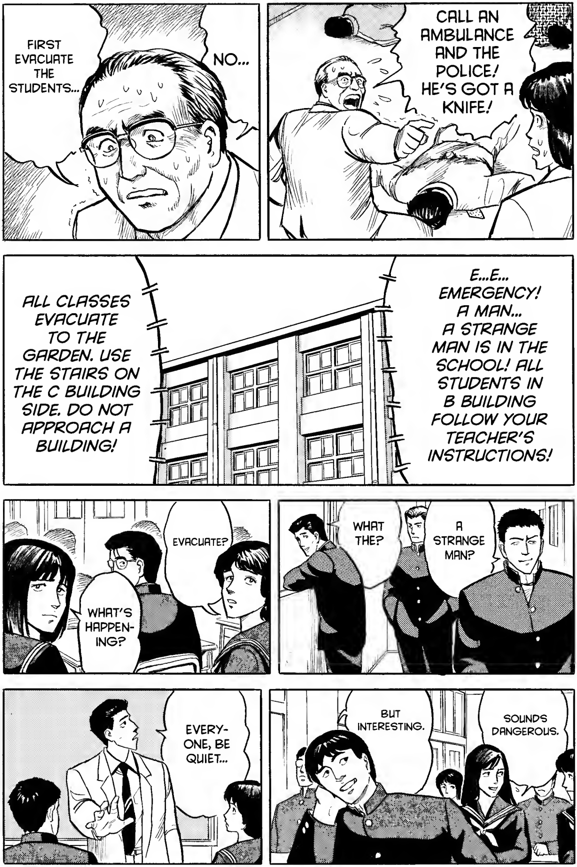

FREE STUDY.
ガラ
RATTLE
......
ガタン
SLAM
ガヤガヤ
CHATTER
UM, SO...
SOMEONE'S ATTACKING... COMING TO KILL *US*?
OF COURSE. PROBABLY THAT ONE GUY.
A?

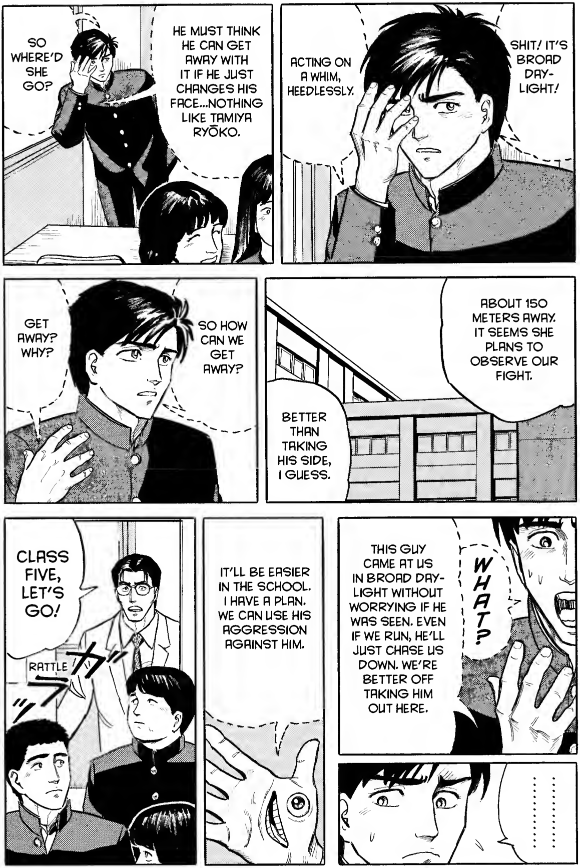

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE HIT YOU!
UNH...
THROW HIM OUT!
BE CAREFUL!
WAIT RIGHT THERE!
ダッ
TKK TKK
ダッ
WHO ARE YOU?
WE CAN'T LET YOU HARM OUR STUDENTS!
MOVE.
ブン
SWING
WHOAH!

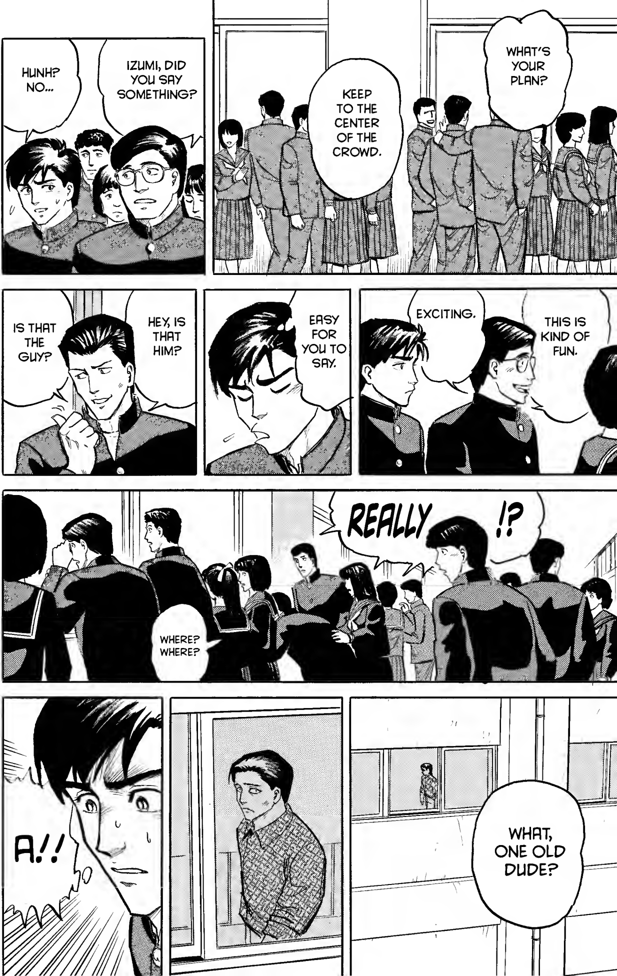

ガスッ
WHAP!
EH!?
WHAT THE...!?
GYAAAA!
CRACK!

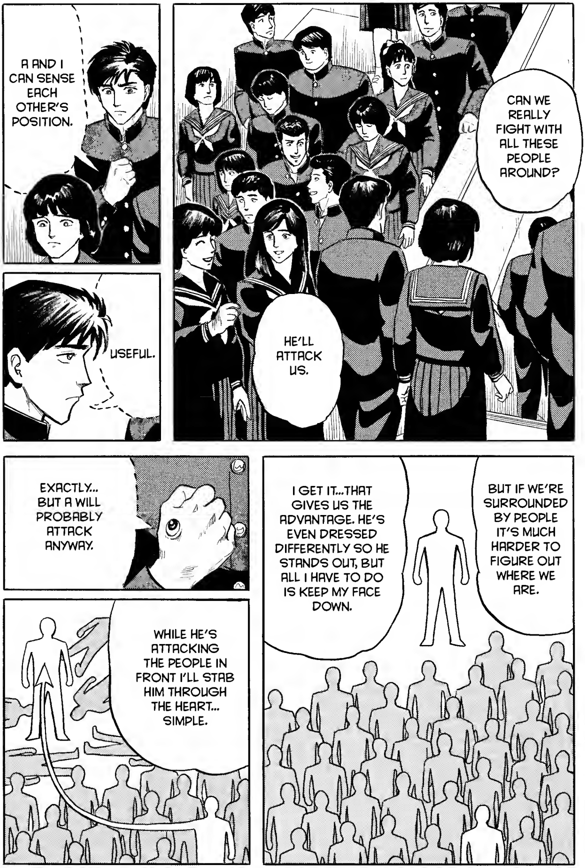

THUD
SWING
SLIDE
ズル…
KA-THUNK!
ALREADY BROKEN.
HUMAN HANDS ARE TOO WEAK. NOT USEFUL WEAPONS.
EEK...

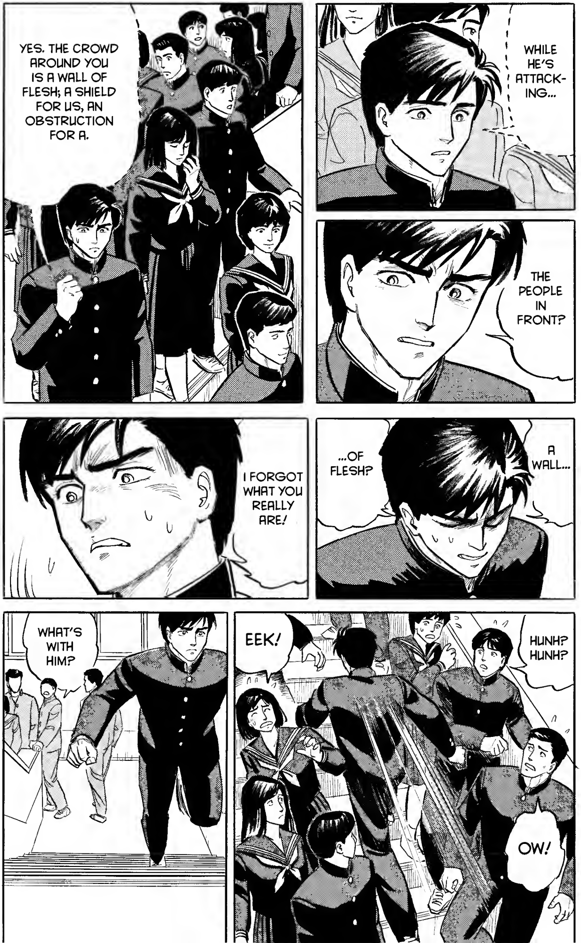

AAAIII EEEEE!
ズ
AUGGGGHH!
SLICE!
HE'S TAKEN OUT THREE OBSTRUCTIONS.
DID HE KILL THEM?
I'M NOT SURE... BUT...
HE'S NOT HOLDING BACK.
AAAA AAAH!
AIIEEEE!

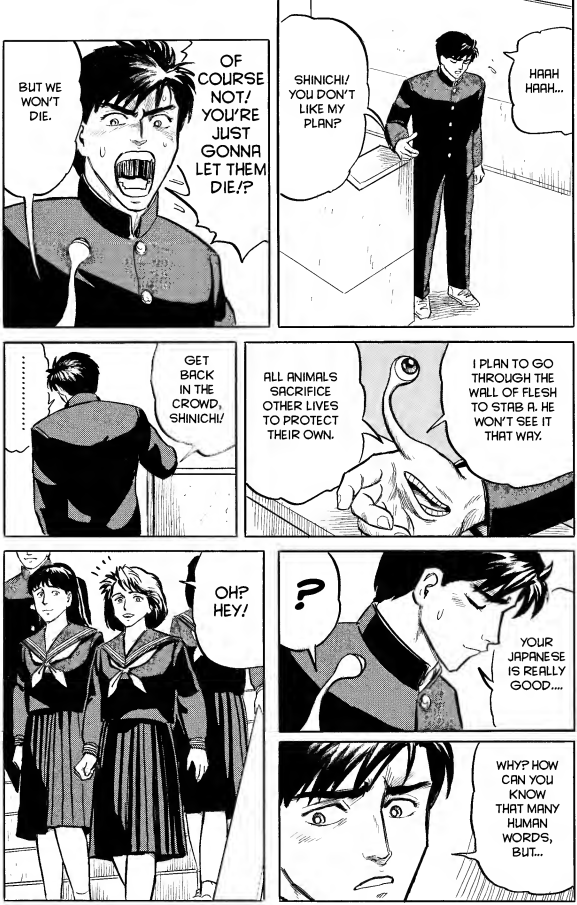

CALL AN AMBULANCE AND THE POLICE! HE'S GOT A KNIFE!
NO...
FIRST EVACUATE THE STUDENTS...
E...E... EMERGENCY! A MAN... A STRANGE MAN IS IN THE SCHOOL! ALL STUDENTS IN B BUILDING FOLLOW YOUR TEACHER'S INSTRUCTIONS!
ALL CLASSES EVACUATE TO THE GARDEN. USE THE STAIRS ON THE C BUILDING SIDE. DO NOT APPROACH A BUILDING!
A STRANGE MAN?
WHAT THE?
EVACUATE?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SOUNDS DANGEROUS.
BUT INTERESTING.
EVERYONE, BE QUIET...

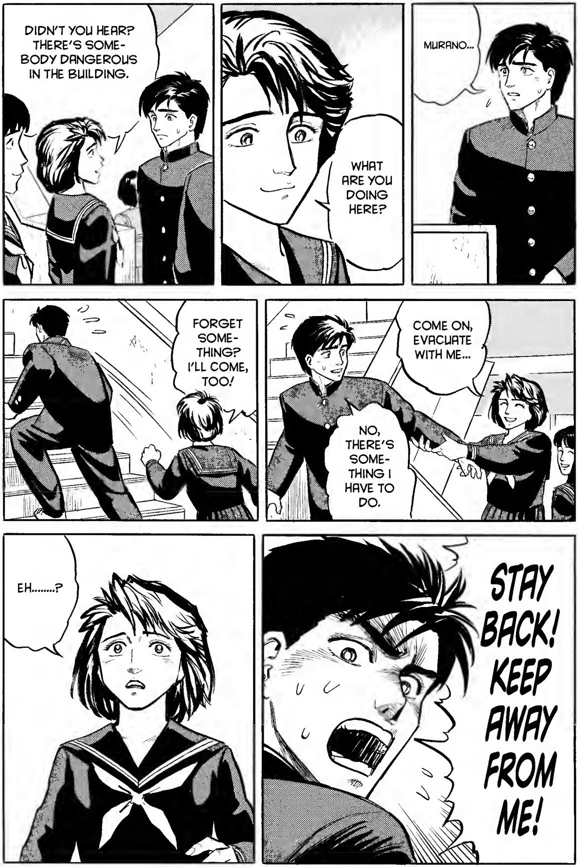

HE MUST THINK HE CAN GET AWAY WITH IT IF HE JUST CHANGES HIS FACE...NOTHING LIKE TAMIYA RYŌKO.
SO WHERE'D SHE GO?
ACTING ON A WHIM, HEEDLESSLY.
SHIT! IT'S BROAD DAYLIGHT!
SO HOW CAN WE GET AWAY?
GET AWAY? WHY?
ABOUT 150 METERS AWAY. IT SEEMS SHE PLANS TO OBSERVE OUR FIGHT.
BETTER THAN TAKING HIS SIDE, I GUESS.
CLASS FIVE, LET'S GO!
RATTLE
IT'LL BE EASIER IN THE SCHOOL. I HAVE A PLAN. WE CAN USE HIS AGGRESSION AGAINST HIM.
THIS GUY CAME AT US IN BROAD DAYLIGHT WITHOUT WORRYING IF HE WAS SEEN. EVEN IF WE RUN, HE'LL JUST CHASE US DOWN. WE'RE BETTER OFF TAKING HIM OUT HERE.
WHAT?
......

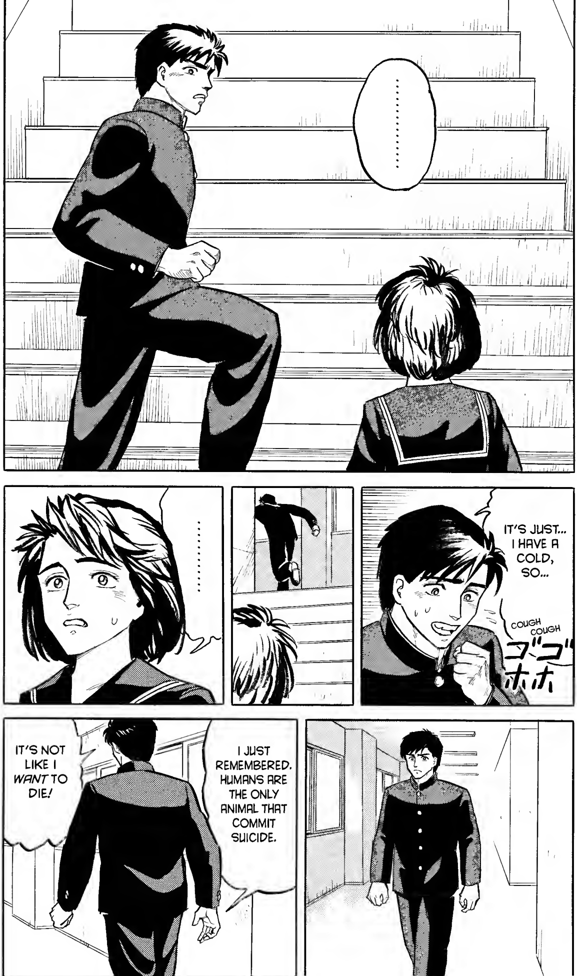

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
KEEP TO THE CENTER OF THE CROWD.
IZUMI, DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
HUNH? NO...
THIS IS KIND OF FUN.
EXCITING.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
HEY, IS THAT HIM?
IS THAT THE GUY?
REALLY !?
WHERE? WHERE?
WHAT, ONE OLD DUDE?
A!!

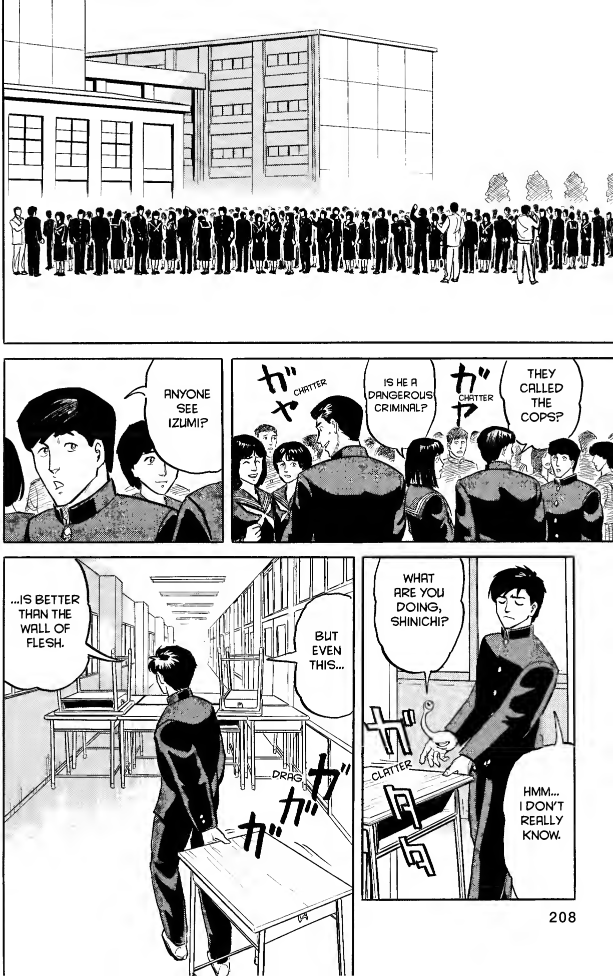

CAN WE REALLY FIGHT WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE AROUND?
HE'LL ATTACK US.
A AND I CAN SENSE EACH OTHER'S POSITION.
USEFUL.
BUT IF WE'RE SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE IT'S MUCH HARDER TO FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE.
I GET IT...THAT GIVES US THE ADVANTAGE. HE'S EVEN DRESSED DIFFERENTLY SO HE STANDS OUT, BUT ALL I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP MY FACE DOWN.
EXACTLY... BUT A WILL PROBABLY ATTACK ANYWAY.
WHILE HE'S ATTACKING THE PEOPLE IN FRONT I'LL STAB HIM THROUGH THE HEART... SIMPLE.

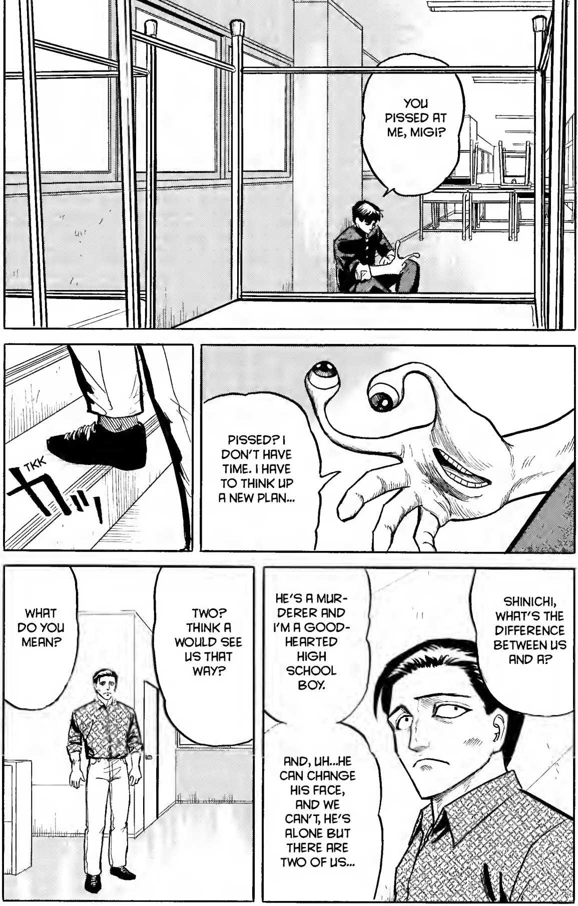

WHILE HE'S ATTACKING...
THE PEOPLE IN FRONT?
YES. THE CROWD AROUND YOU IS A WALL OF FLESH; A SHIELD FOR US, AN OBSTRUCTION FOR A.
A WALL...
...OF FLESH?
I FORGOT WHAT YOU REALLY ARE!
HUNH? HUNH?
EEK!
OW!
WHAT'S WITH HIM?

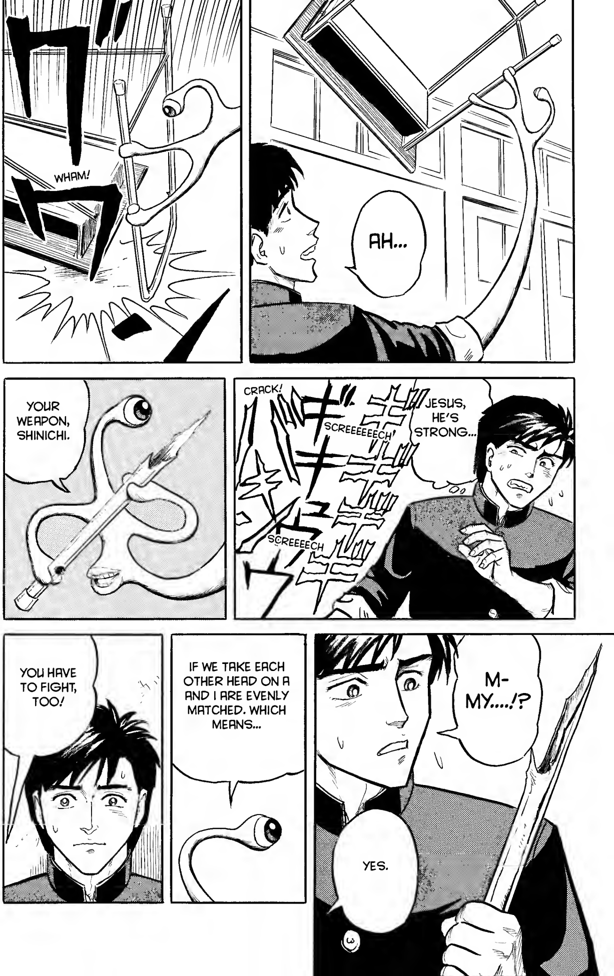

HAAH HAAH...
SHINICHI! YOU DON'T LIKE MY PLAN?
OF COURSE NOT! YOU'RE JUST GONNA LET THEM DIE!?
BUT WE WON'T DIE.
I PLAN TO GO THROUGH THE WALL OF FLESH TO STAB A. HE WON'T SEE IT THAT WAY.
ALL ANIMALS SACRIFICE OTHER LIVES TO PROTECT THEIR OWN.
GET BACK IN THE CROWD, SHINICHI!
....
?
YOUR JAPANESE IS REALLY GOOD....
WHY? HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT MANY HUMAN WORDS, BUT...
OH? HEY!

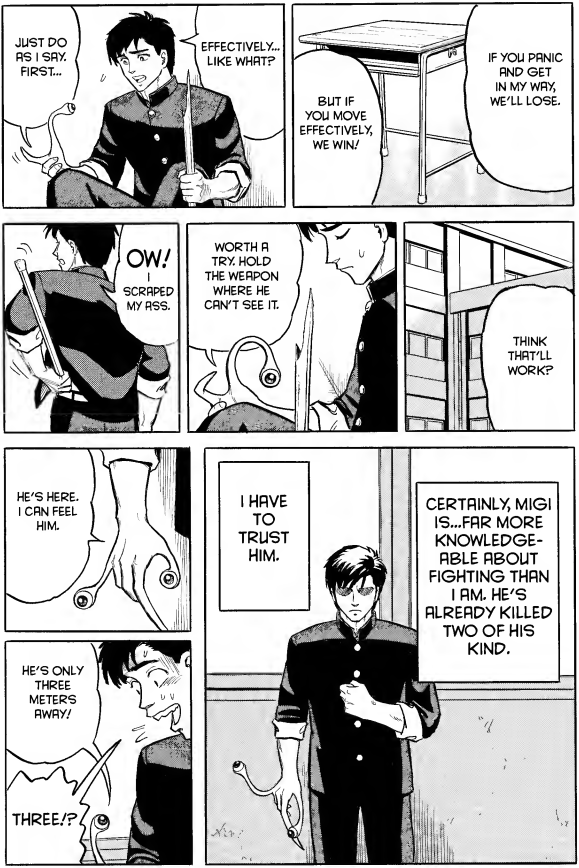

DIDN'T YOU HEAR? THERE'S SOMEBODY DANGEROUS IN THE BUILDING.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MURANO...
FORGET SOMETHING? I'LL COME, TOO!
COME ON, EVACUATE WITH ME...
NO, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO.
EH........?
STAY BACK! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!

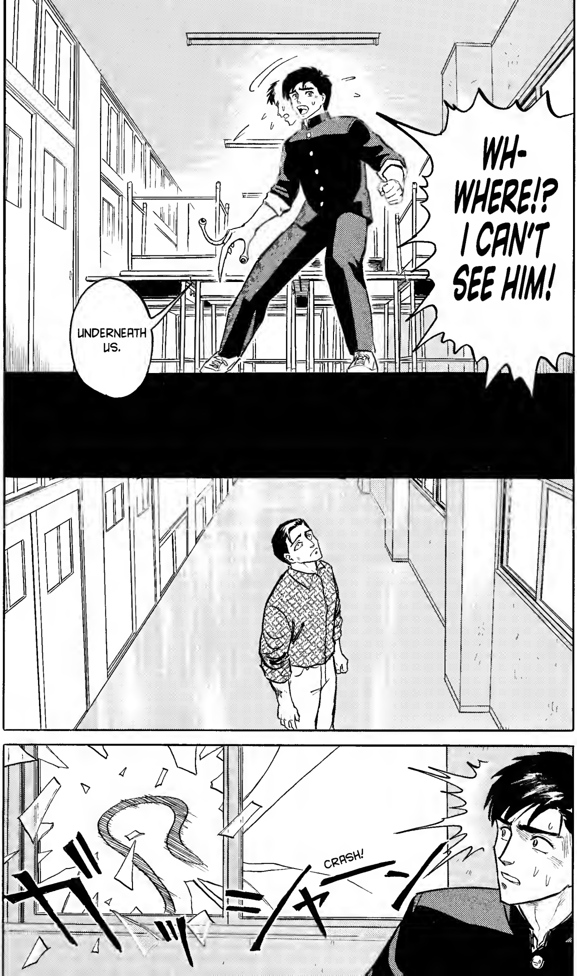

……
IT'S JUST... I HAVE A COLD, SO...
COUGH COUGH
ゴホゴホ
……
I JUST REMEMBERED. HUMANS ARE THE ONLY ANIMAL THAT COMMIT SUICIDE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I *WANT* TO DIE!

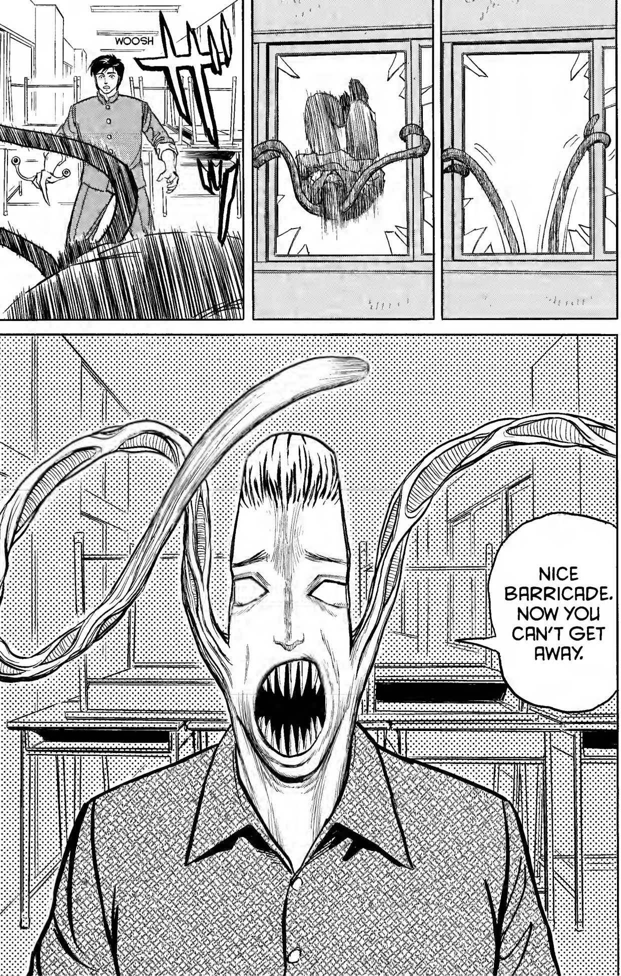

THEY CALLED THE COPS?
ガヤ CHATTER
IS HE A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL?
ガヤ CHATTER
ANYONE SEE IZUMI?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHINICHI?
ガ CLATTER
タタ
HMM... I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
BUT EVEN THIS...
...IS BETTER THAN THE WALL OF FLESH.
ガガガ DRAG

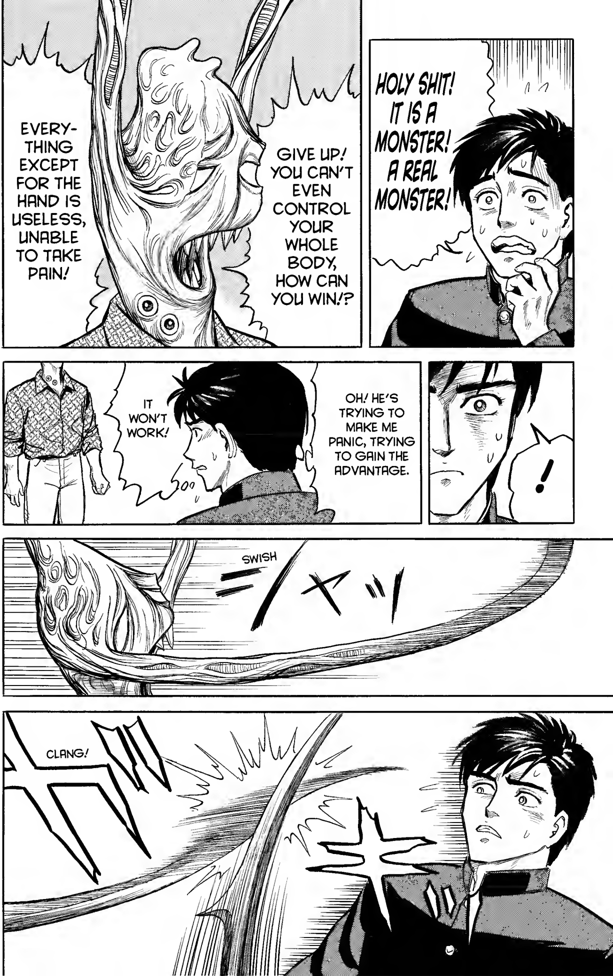

YOU PISSED AT ME, MIGI?
PISSED? I DON'T HAVE TIME. I HAVE TO THINK UP A NEW PLAN...
TKK
カッ
SHINICHI, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND A?
HE'S A MURDERER AND I'M A GOOD-HEARTED HIGH SCHOOL BOY.
AND, UH...HE CAN CHANGE HIS FACE, AND WE CAN'T, HE'S ALONE BUT THERE ARE TWO OF US...
TWO? THINK A WOULD SEE US THAT WAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

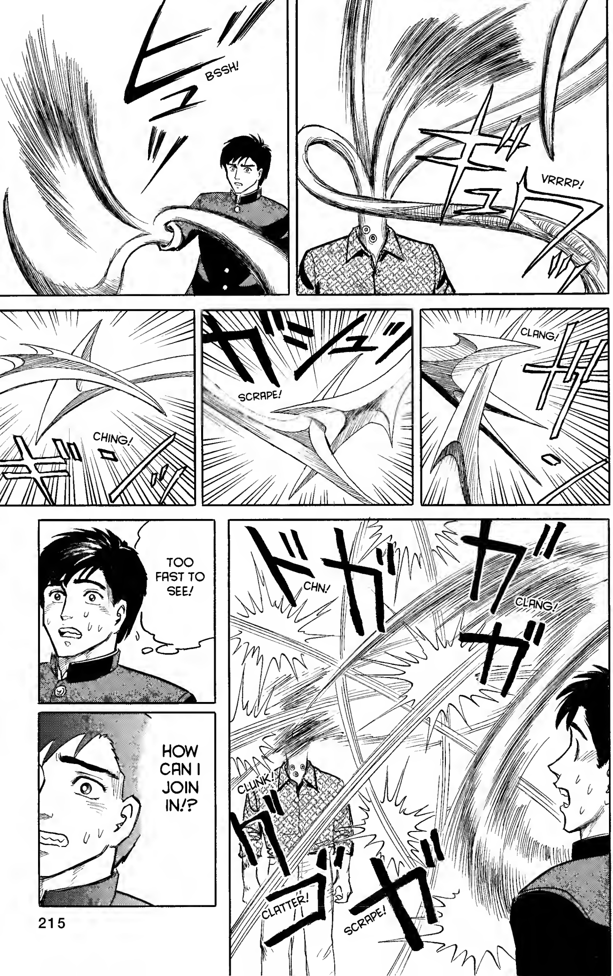

AH...
WHAM!
CRACK!
SCREEEEEECH
SCREEEECH
JESUS, HE'S STRONG...
YOUR WEAPON, SHINICHI.
M-MY.....!?
YES.
IF WE TAKE EACH OTHER HEAD ON A AND I ARE EVENLY MATCHED. WHICH MEANS...
YOU HAVE TO FIGHT, TOO!

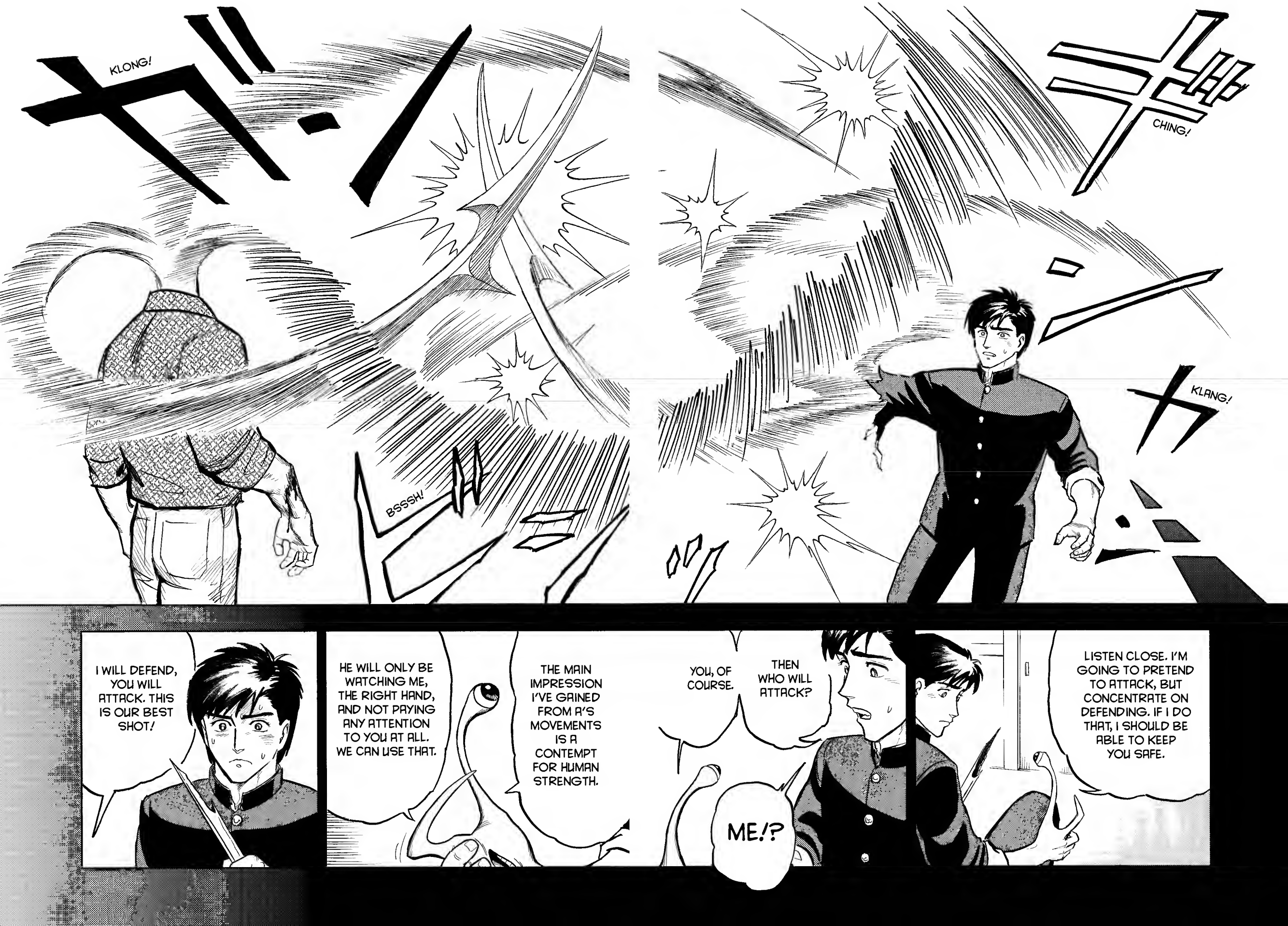

IF YOU PANIC AND GET IN MY WAY, WE'LL LOSE.
BUT IF YOU MOVE EFFECTIVELY, WE WIN!
EFFECTIVELY... LIKE WHAT?
JUST DO AS I SAY. FIRST...
THINK THAT'LL WORK?
WORTH A TRY. HOLD THE WEAPON WHERE HE CAN'T SEE IT.
OW! I SCRAPED MY ASS.
CERTAINLY, MIGI IS...FAR MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT FIGHTING THAN I AM. HE'S ALREADY KILLED TWO OF HIS KIND.
I HAVE TO TRUST HIM.
HE'S HERE. I CAN FEEL HIM.
HE'S ONLY THREE METERS AWAY!
THREE!?

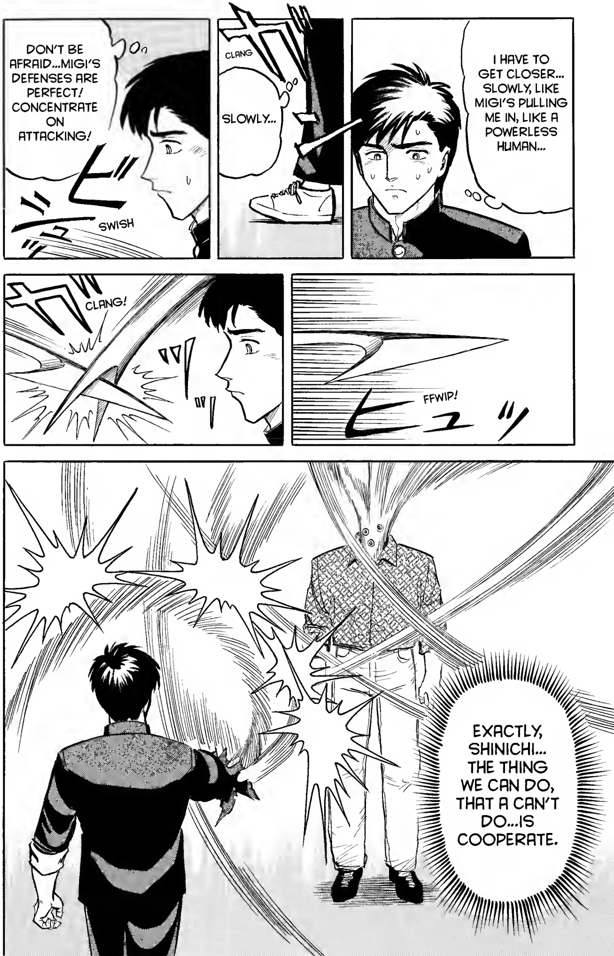

WH-WHERE!? I CAN'T SEE HIM!
UNDERNEATH US.
ガシャーン
CRASH!

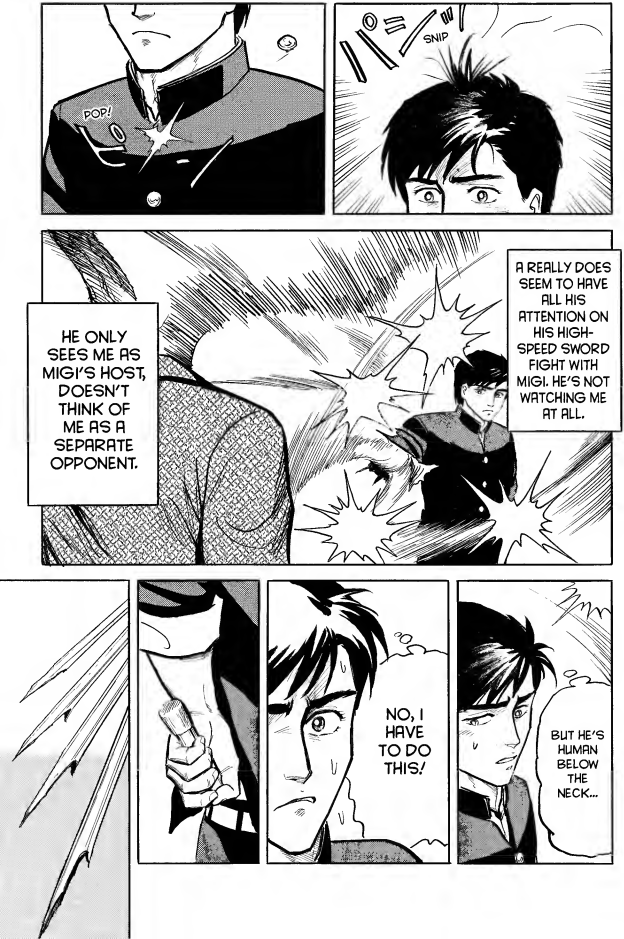

WOOSH
NICE BARRICADE. NOW YOU CAN'T GET AWAY.


HOLY SHIT! IT IS A MONSTER! A REAL MONSTER!
GIVE UP! YOU CAN'T EVEN CONTROL YOUR WHOLE BODY, HOW CAN YOU WIN!?
EVERYTHING EXCEPT FOR THE HAND IS USELESS, UNABLE TO TAKE PAIN!
!
OH! HE'S TRYING TO MAKE ME PANIC, TRYING TO GAIN THE ADVANTAGE.
IT WON'T WORK!
SWISH
シャッ
CLANG!

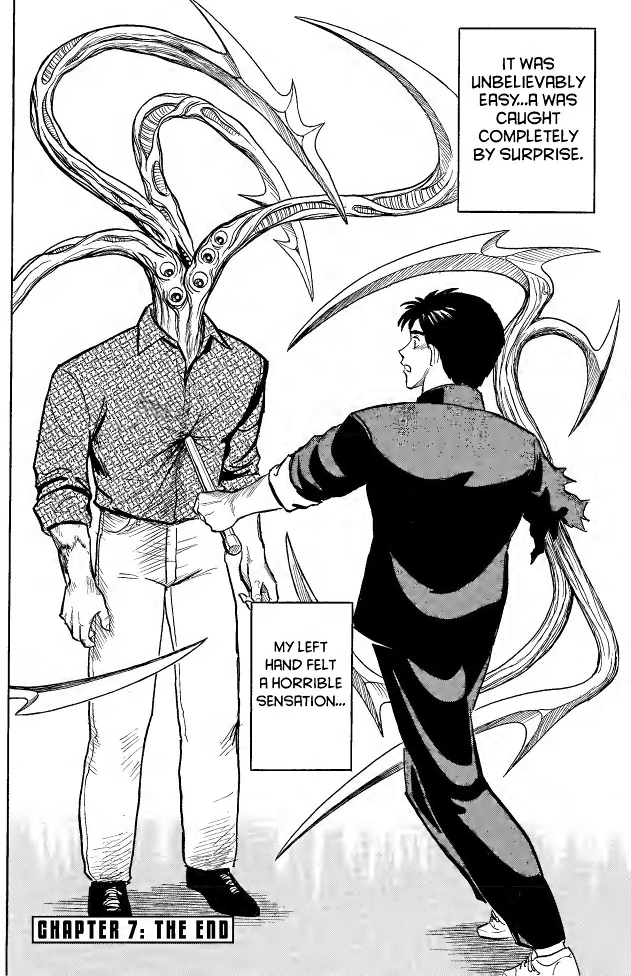

VRRRP!
BSSH!
CLANG!
SCRAPE!
CHING!
CHN!
CLANG!
CLUNK!
CLATTER!
SCRAPE!
TOO FAST TO SEE!
HOW CAN I JOIN IN!?


CHING!
KLANG!
KLONG!
BSSSH!
LISTEN CLOSE. I'M GOING TO PRETEND TO ATTACK, BUT CONCENTRATE ON DEFENDING. IF I DO THAT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
THEN WHO WILL ATTACK?
YOU, OF COURSE.
ME!?
THE MAIN IMPRESSION I'VE GAINED FROM A'S MOVEMENTS IS A CONTEMPT FOR HUMAN STRENGTH.
HE WILL ONLY BE WATCHING ME, THE RIGHT HAND, AND NOT PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO YOU AT ALL. WE CAN USE THAT.
I WILL DEFEND, YOU WILL ATTACK. THIS IS OUR BEST SHOT!


DON'T BE AFRAID...MIGI'S DEFENSES ARE PERFECT! CONCENTRATE ON ATTACKING!
SWISH
CLANG
SLOWLY...
I HAVE TO GET CLOSER... SLOWLY, LIKE MIGI'S PULLING ME IN, LIKE A POWERLESS HUMAN...
CLANG!
FFWIP!
ヒュッ
EXACTLY, SHINICHI... THE THING WE CAN DO, THAT A CAN'T DO...IS COOPERATE.

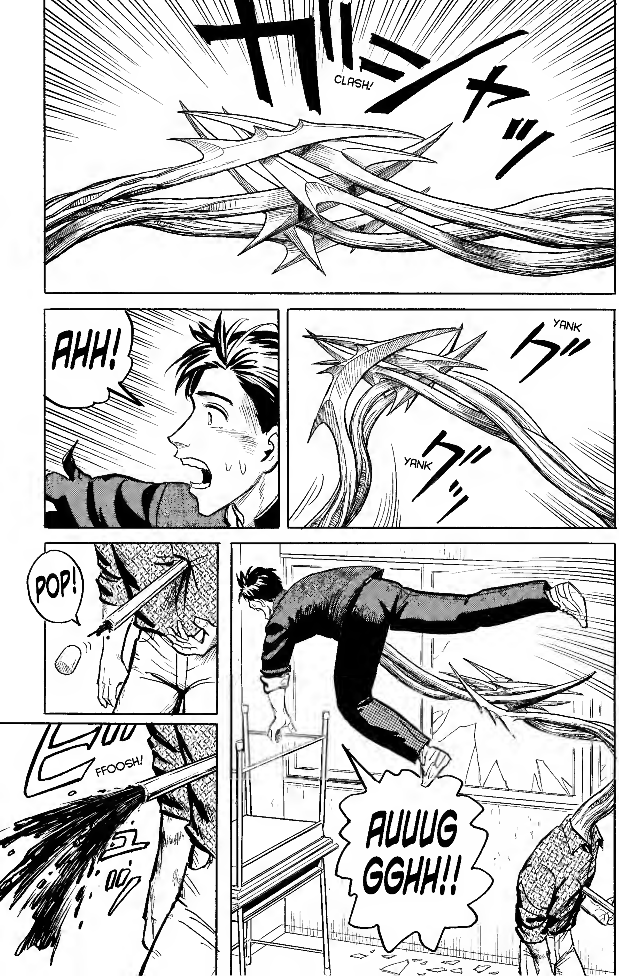

SNIP
POP!
A REALLY DOES SEEM TO HAVE ALL HIS ATTENTION ON HIS HIGH-SPEED SWORD FIGHT WITH MIGI. HE'S NOT WATCHING ME AT ALL.
HE ONLY SEES ME AS MIGI'S HOST, DOESN'T THINK OF ME AS A SEPARATE OPPONENT.
BUT HE'S HUMAN BELOW THE NECK...
NO, I HAVE TO DO THIS!

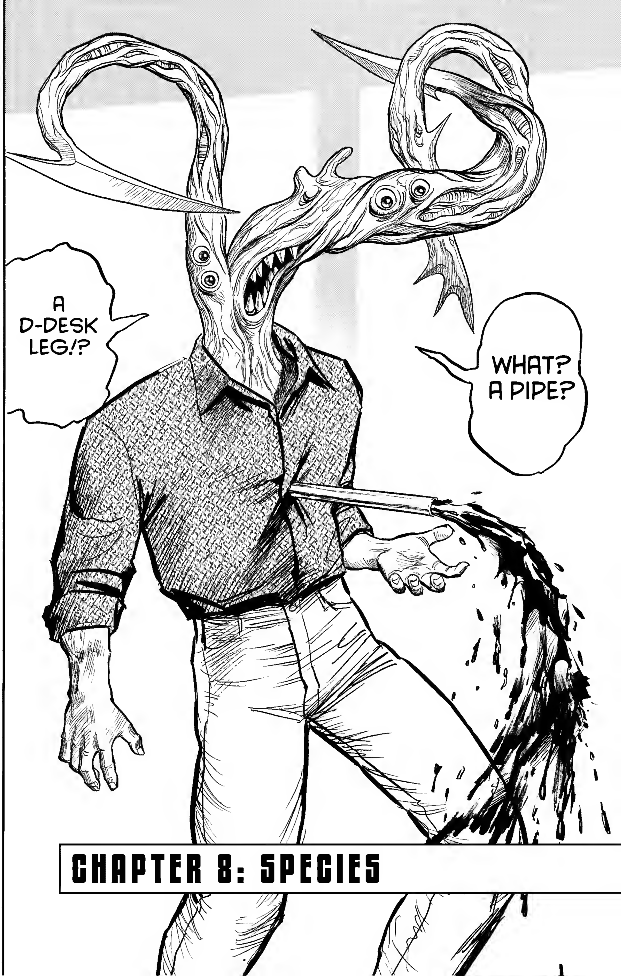
CHAPTER 7: THE END


IT WAS UNBELIEVABLY EASY...A WAS CAUGHT COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.
MY LEFT HAND FELT A HORRIBLE SENSATION...

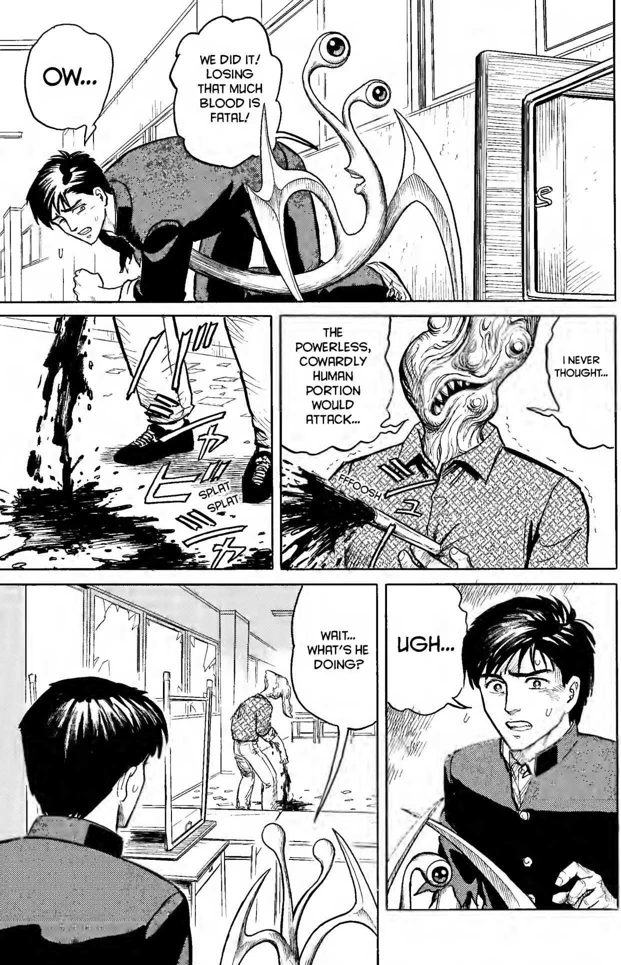
寄生獣

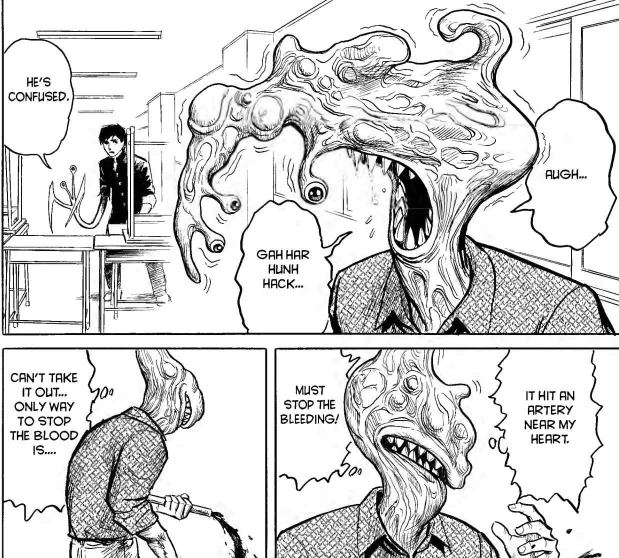
岩明均

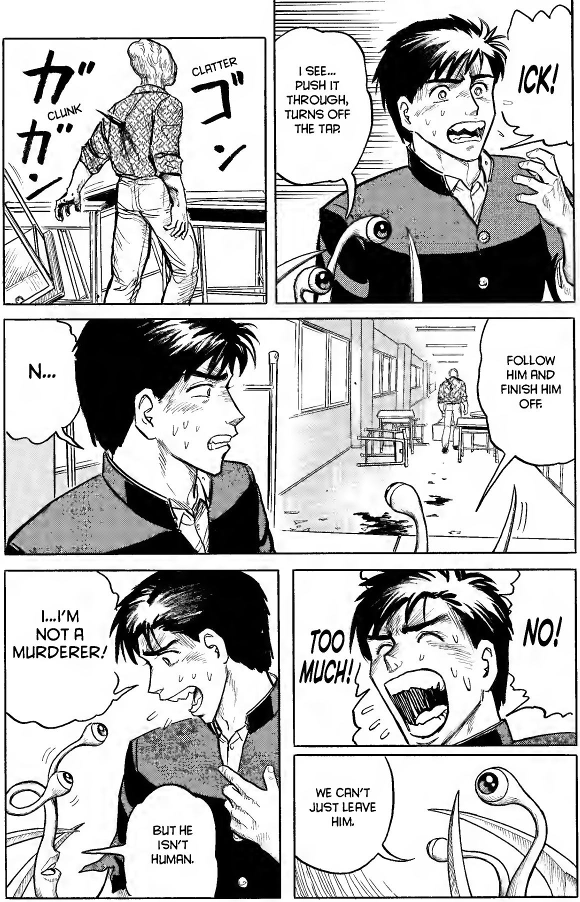

ガシャッ
CLASH!
グッ
YANK
グッ
YANK
AHH!
AUUUGGHH!!
POP!
FFOOSH!

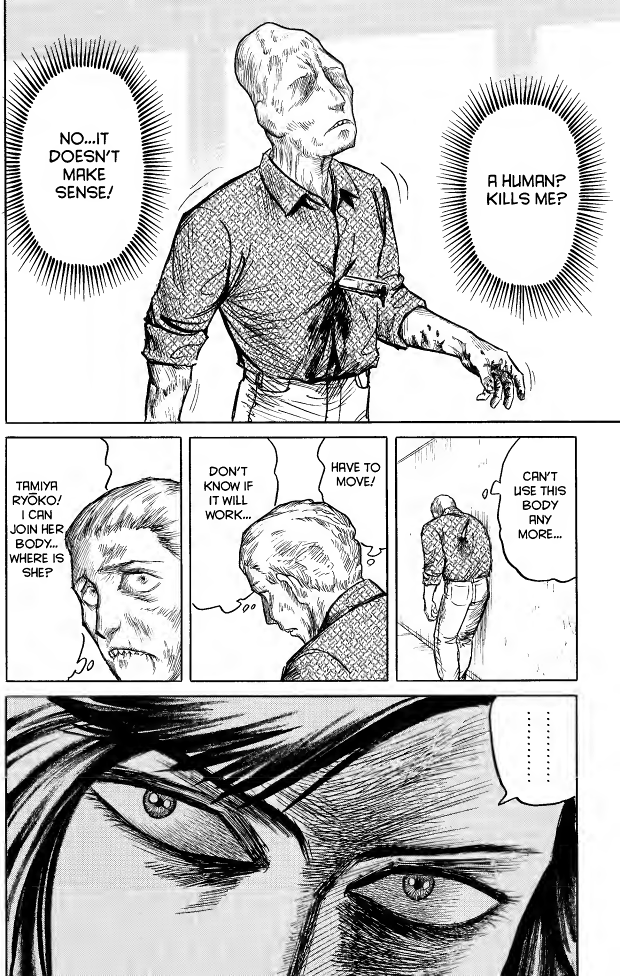

WHAT?
A PIPE?
A
D-DESK
LEG!?

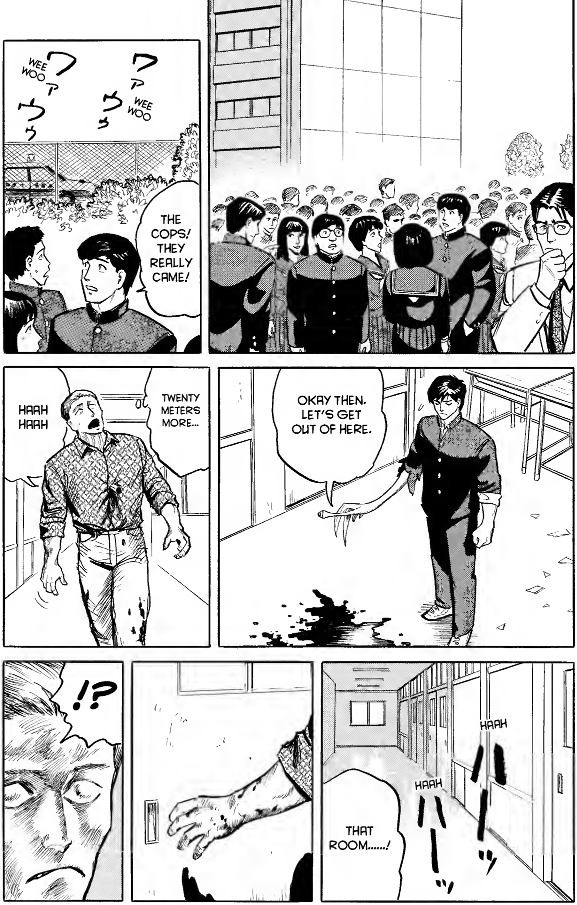
CHAPTER 8: SPECIES


OW...
WE DID IT! LOSING THAT MUCH BLOOD IS FATAL!
SPLAT SPLAT
THE POWERLESS, COWARDLY HUMAN PORTION WOULD ATTACK...
I NEVER THOUGHT...
FFFOOSH
WAIT... WHAT'S HE DOING?
UGH...


AUGH...
GAH HAR HUNH HACK...
HE'S CONFUSED.
IT HIT AN ARTERY NEAR MY HEART.
MUST STOP THE BLEEDING!
CAN'T TAKE IT OUT... ONLY WAY TO STOP THE BLOOD IS....
ズブブ
SCRUNCH...
ビッ
POP!


ICK!
I SEE... PUSH IT THROUGH, TURNS OFF THE TAP.
CLATTER
ゴン
CLUNK
ガガン
FOLLOW HIM AND FINISH HIM OFF.
N...
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM.
NO!
TOO MUCH!
I...I'M NOT A MURDERER!
BUT HE ISN'T HUMAN.


A HUMAN? KILLS ME?
NO...IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
CAN'T USE THIS BODY ANY MORE...
HAVE TO MOVE!
DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL WORK...
TAMIYA RYŌKO! I CAN JOIN HER BODY... WHERE IS SHE?
……


WEE WOO
ワ
ア
ウ
ゥ
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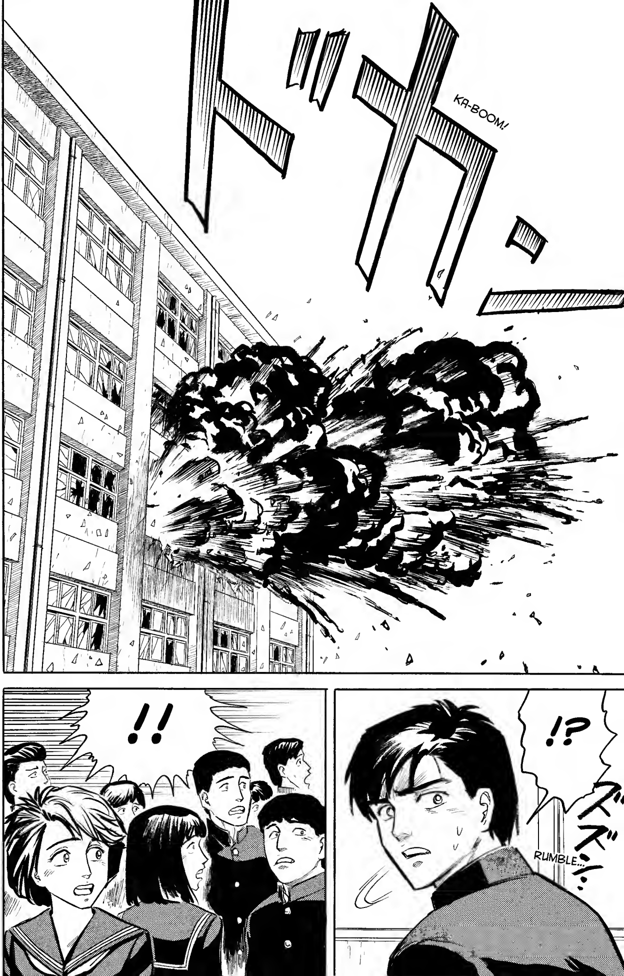
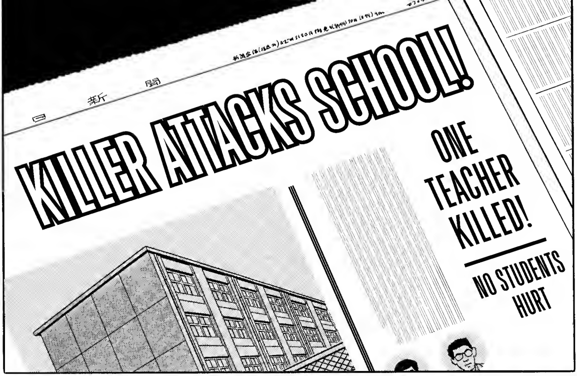
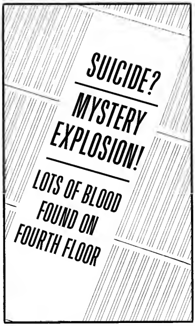
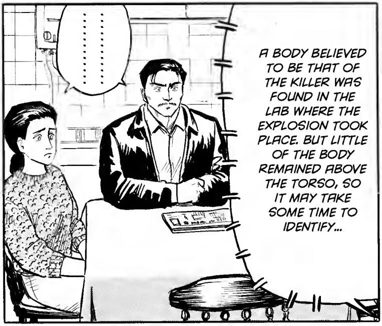
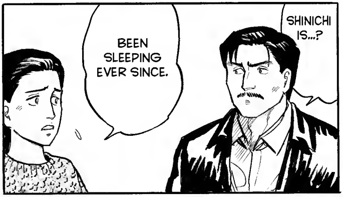
ア
ウ
ゥ
WEE WOO
THE COPS! THEY REALLY CAME!
HAAH HAAH
TWENTY METERS MORE...
OKAY THEN. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
!?
HAAH
HAAH
THAT ROOM......!

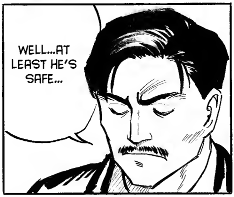

ドカン
KA-BOOM!
!?
ズズン
RUMBLE...
!!

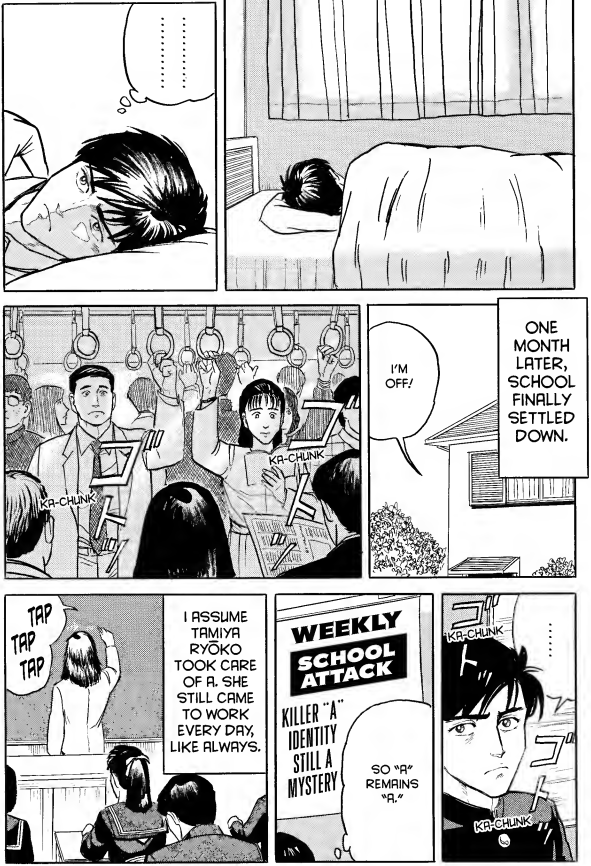

KILLER ATTACKS SCHOOL!
ONE TEACHER KILLED!
NO STUDENTS HURT

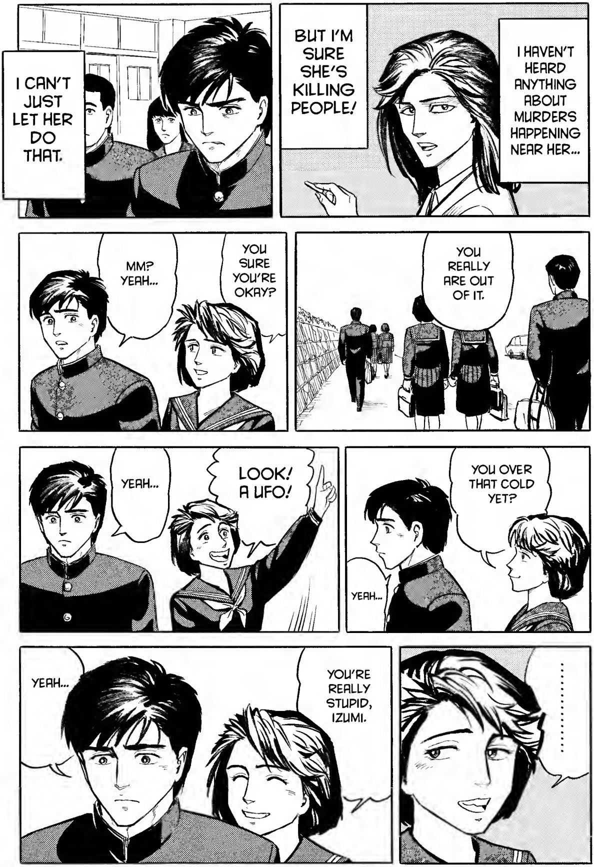

SUICIDE?
MYSTERY EXPLOSION!
LOTS OF BLOOD FOUND ON FOURTH FLOOR

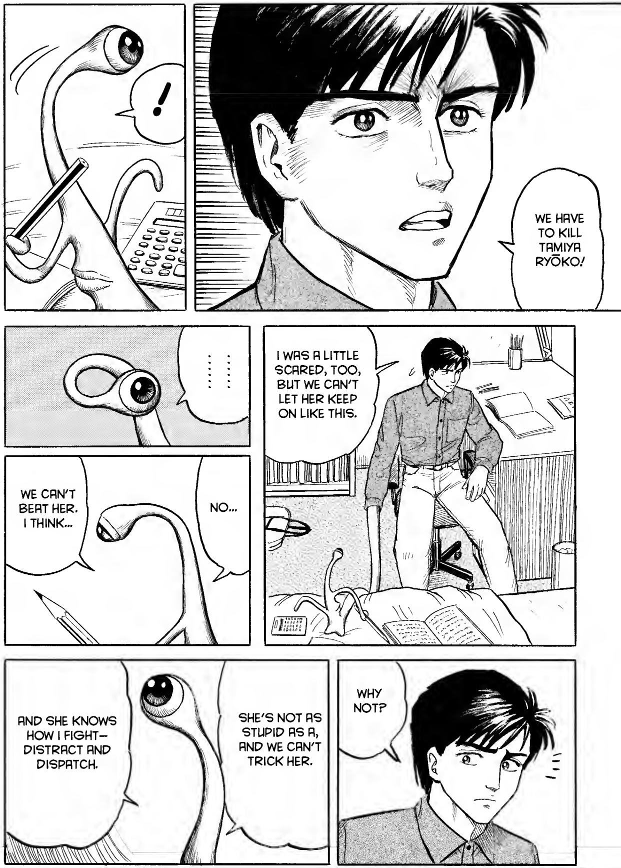

A BODY BELIEVED TO BE THAT OF THE KILLER WAS FOUND IN THE LAB WHERE THE EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE. BUT LITTLE OF THE BODY REMAINED ABOVE THE TORSO, SO IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO IDENTIFY...
....

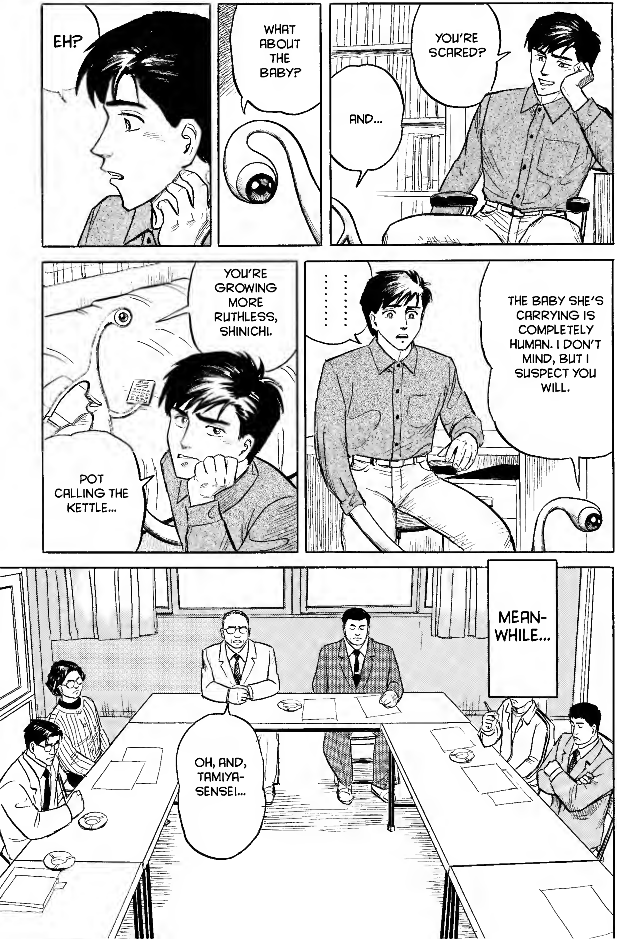

SHINICHI IS...?
BEEN SLEEPING EVER SINCE.

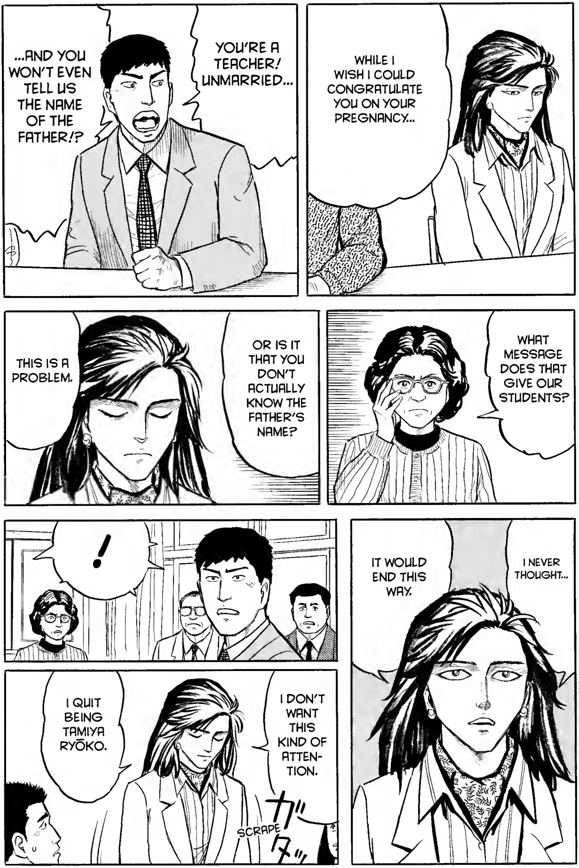

WELL...AT LEAST HE'S SAFE...

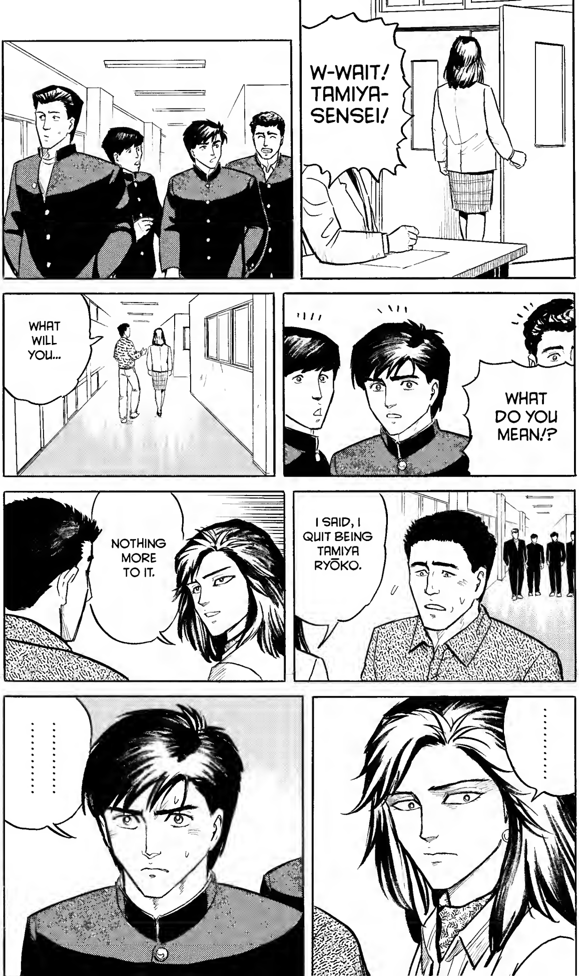

……
ONE MONTH LATER, SCHOOL FINALLY SETTLED DOWN.
I'M OFF!
KA-CHUNK
KA-CHUNK
……
KA-CHUNK
KA-CHUNK
WEEKLY SCHOOL ATTACK
KILLER "A" IDENTITY STILL A MYSTERY
SO "A" REMAINS "A."
I ASSUME TAMIYA RYŌKO TOOK CARE OF A. SHE STILL CAME TO WORK EVERY DAY, LIKE ALWAYS.
TAP TAP TAP

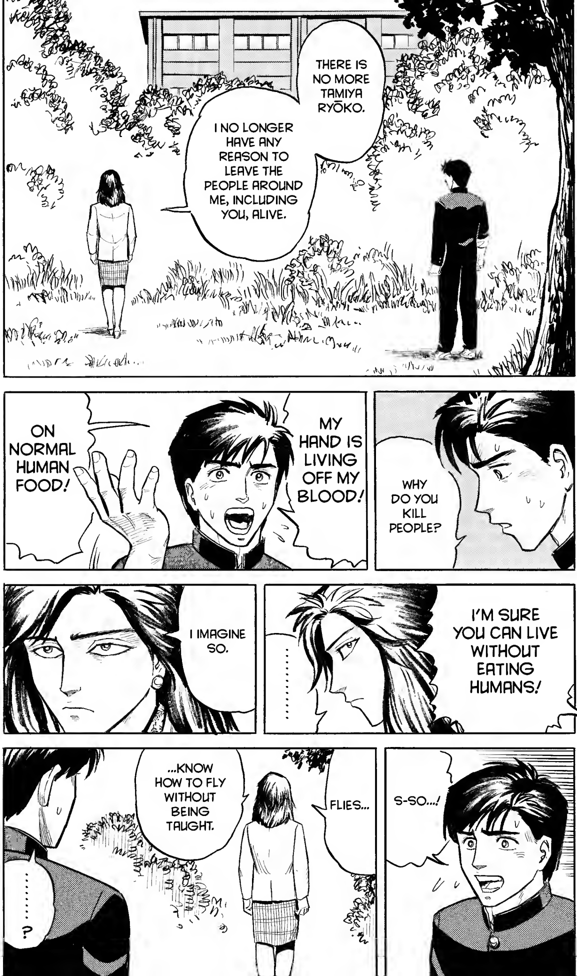

I CAN'T JUST LET HER DO THAT.
BUT I'M SURE SHE'S KILLING PEOPLE!
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT MURDERS HAPPENING NEAR HER...
YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
MM? YEAH...
YOU REALLY ARE OUT OF IT.
LOOK! A UFO!
YEAH...
YOU OVER THAT COLD YET?
YEAH...
YOU'RE REALLY STUPID, IZUMI.
YEAH...
......

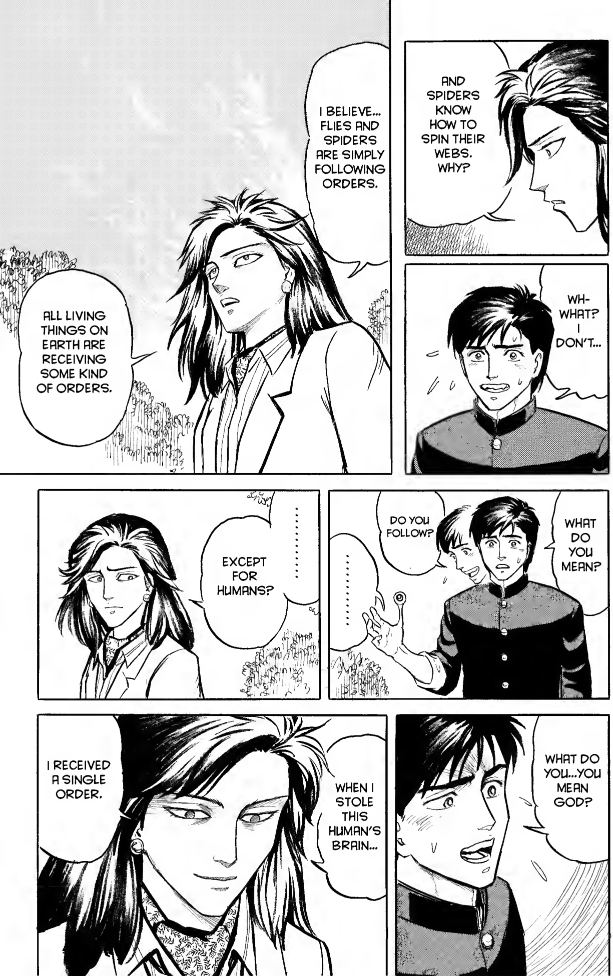

WE HAVE TO KILL TAMIYA RYŌKO!
!
I WAS A LITTLE SCARED, TOO, BUT WE CAN'T LET HER KEEP ON LIKE THIS.
……
NO...
WE CAN'T BEAT HER. I THINK...
WHY NOT?
SHE'S NOT AS STUPID AS A, AND WE CAN'T TRICK HER.
AND SHE KNOWS HOW I FIGHT—DISTRACT AND DISPATCH.

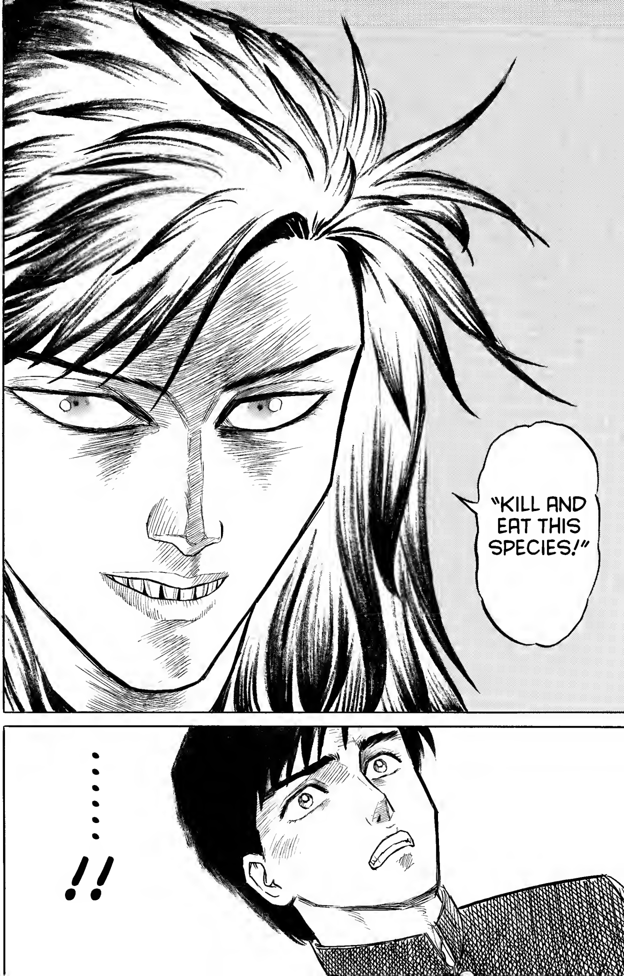

YOU'RE SCARED?
AND...
WHAT ABOUT THE BABY?
EH?
THE BABY SHE'S CARRYING IS COMPLETELY HUMAN. I DON'T MIND, BUT I SUSPECT YOU WILL.
......
YOU'RE GROWING MORE RUTHLESS, SHINICHI.
POT CALLING THE KETTLE...
MEANWHILE...
OH, AND, TAMIYA-SENSEI...

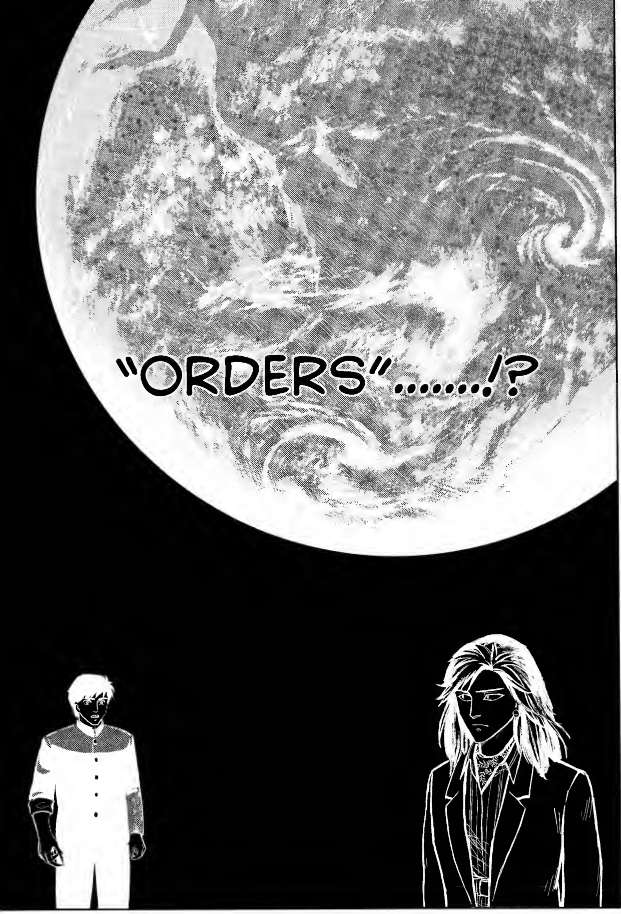

WHILE I WISH I COULD CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR PREGNANCY...
YOU'RE A TEACHER! UNMARRIED...
...AND YOU WON'T EVEN TELL US THE NAME OF THE FATHER!?
WHAT MESSAGE DOES THAT GIVE OUR STUDENTS?
OR IS IT THAT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW THE FATHER'S NAME?
THIS IS A PROBLEM.
I NEVER THOUGHT...
IT WOULD END THIS WAY.
!
I DON'T WANT THIS KIND OF ATTENTION.
I QUIT BEING TAMIYA RYŌKO.
ガタッ
SCRAPE

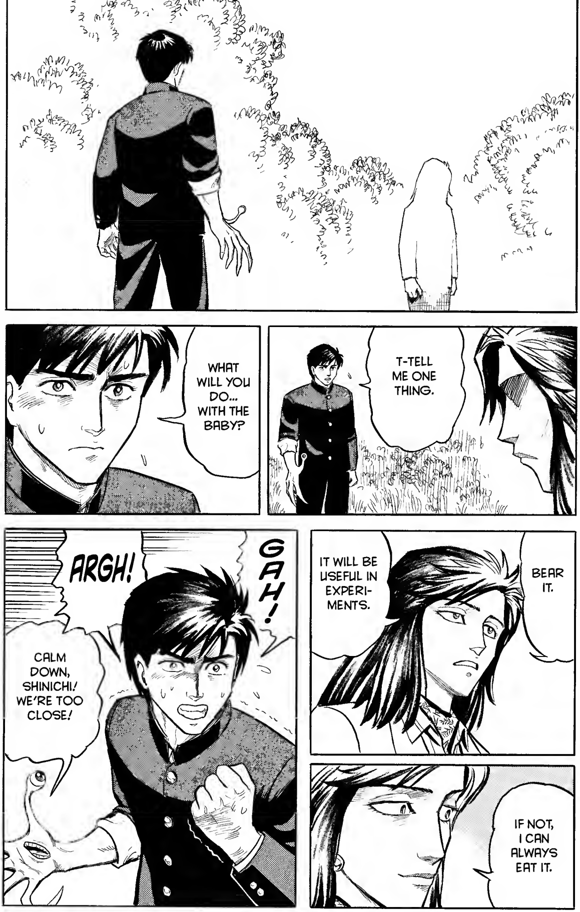

W-WAIT! TAMIYA-SENSEI!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
WHAT WILL YOU...
I SAID, I QUIT BEING TAMIYA RYŌKO.
NOTHING MORE TO IT.
......
......

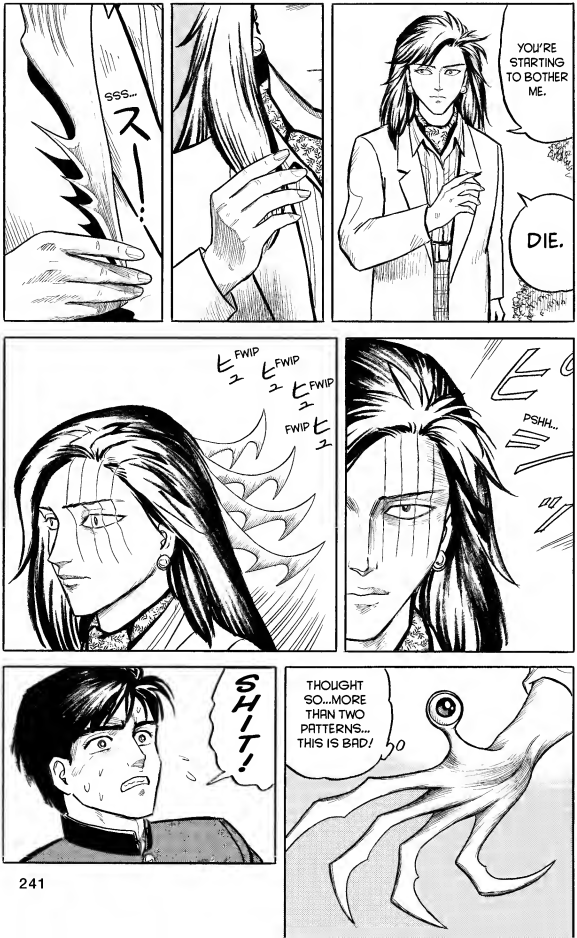

THERE IS NO MORE TAMIYA RYŌKO.
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY REASON TO LEAVE THE PEOPLE AROUND ME, INCLUDING YOU, ALIVE.
WHY DO YOU KILL PEOPLE?
MY HAND IS LIVING OFF MY BLOOD!
ON NORMAL HUMAN FOOD!
I'M SURE YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT EATING HUMANS!
......
I IMAGINE SO.
S-SO...!
FLIES...
...KNOW HOW TO FLY WITHOUT BEING TAUGHT.
......?

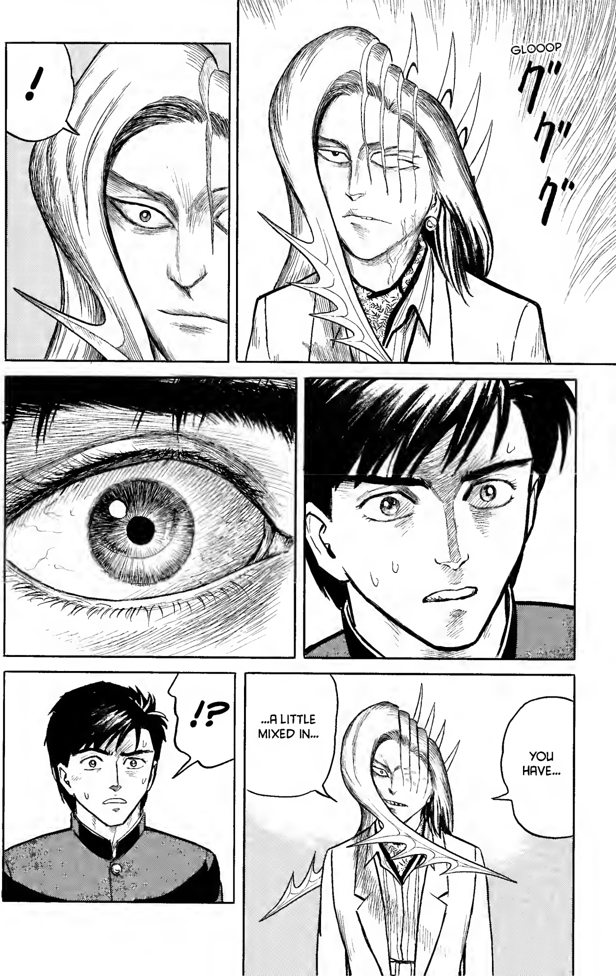

AND SPIDERS KNOW HOW TO SPIN THEIR WEBS. WHY?
I BELIEVE... FLIES AND SPIDERS ARE SIMPLY FOLLOWING ORDERS.
ALL LIVING THINGS ON EARTH ARE RECEIVING SOME KIND OF ORDERS.
WH- WHAT? I DON'T...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DO YOU FOLLOW?
....
....
EXCEPT FOR HUMANS?
WHAT DO YOU...YOU MEAN GOD?
WHEN I STOLE THIS HUMAN'S BRAIN...
I RECEIVED A SINGLE ORDER.

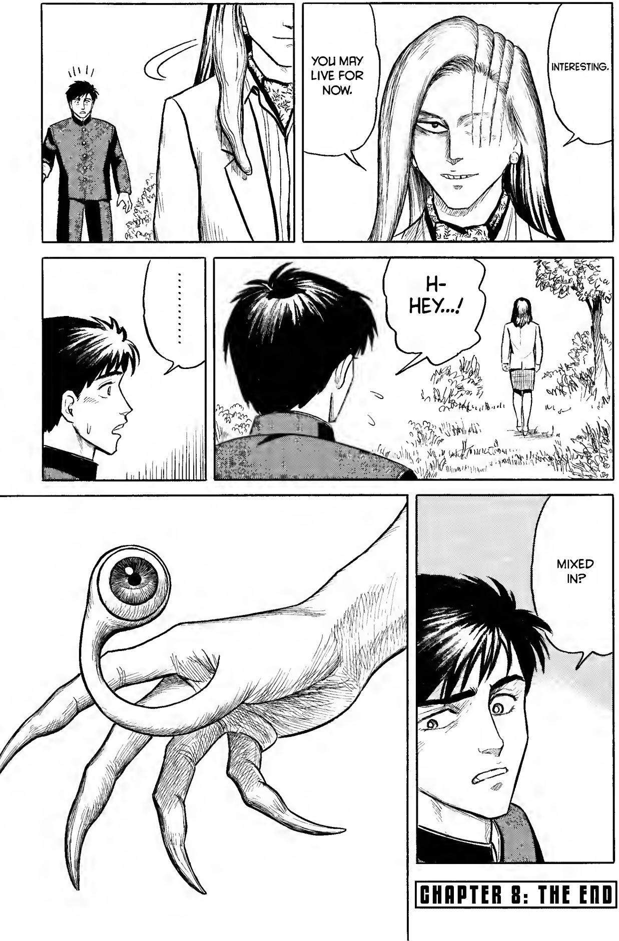

"KILL AND EAT THIS SPECIES!"
......!!


"ORDERS"......!?


T-TELL ME ONE THING.
WHAT WILL YOU DO... WITH THE BABY?
BEAR IT.
IT WILL BE USEFUL IN EXPERI-MENTS.
IF NOT, I CAN ALWAYS EAT IT.
GAH!
ARGH!
CALM DOWN, SHINICHI! WE'RE TOO CLOSE!


SSS...
スー!!
YOU'RE STARTING TO BOTHER ME.
DIE.
FWIP ヒュ
FWIP ヒュ
FWIP ヒュ
FWIP ヒュ
ヒ
PSHH...
SHIT!
THOUGHT SO...MORE THAN TWO PATTERNS... THIS IS BAD!


GLOOOP
グググ
!
YOU HAVE...
...A LITTLE MIXED IN...
!?


INTERESTING.
YOU MAY LIVE FOR NOW.
H- HEY...!
......
MIXED IN?

CHAPTER 8: THE END

From the Monthly Afternoon Readers' page...

PARASYTE [PERFECT EDITION] 1

vol. 2

THE READERS ASK, THE AUTHOR ANSWERS

"This impressed me more than any novel or movie. Not just sci-fi horror—it made me think about the strengths and weaknesses of mankind." (Hyogo Prefecture, Ikeda Nobuo, 33, Office Worker)

"I hope they make a movie out of *Parasyte*. I think Cronenberg could do a great job with it." (Tokyo, Yuuji, 20, Student)

"Manga and movies each have their own essence and flexibility, so bad works can suddenly shine when filmed, or the other way around.

"The movies I like tend to be like a single life-form from beginning to end. Presumably the makers put their blood and bodies into it, and captured the essence of the work. Without passion, nothing good can be made." (Hitoshi Iwaaki)

(From *Afternoon*, August 1991)

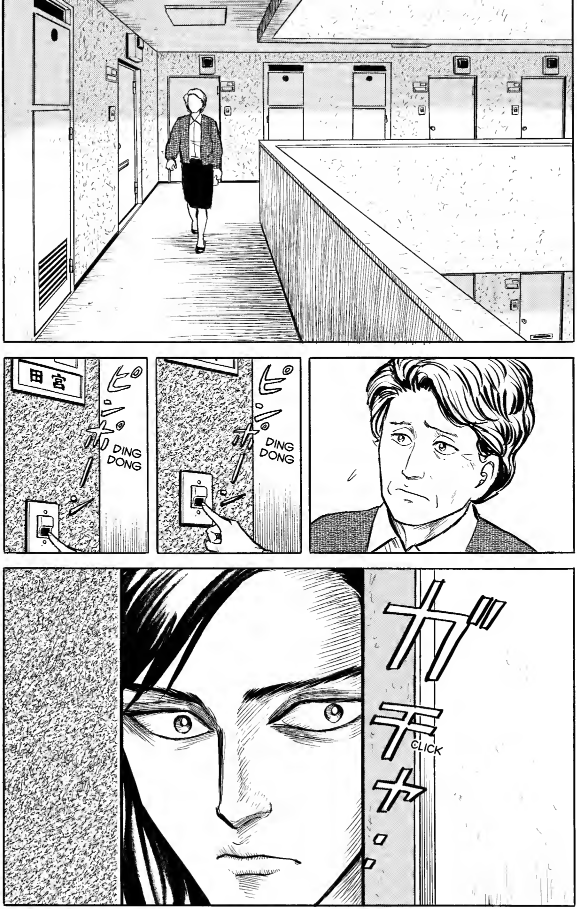
"Reading *Parasyte* makes me think about human arrogance (toward nature), makes me wonder if humans are denying the fact that they are part of nature. Iwaaki-san, what do you think about artificial versus natural?"

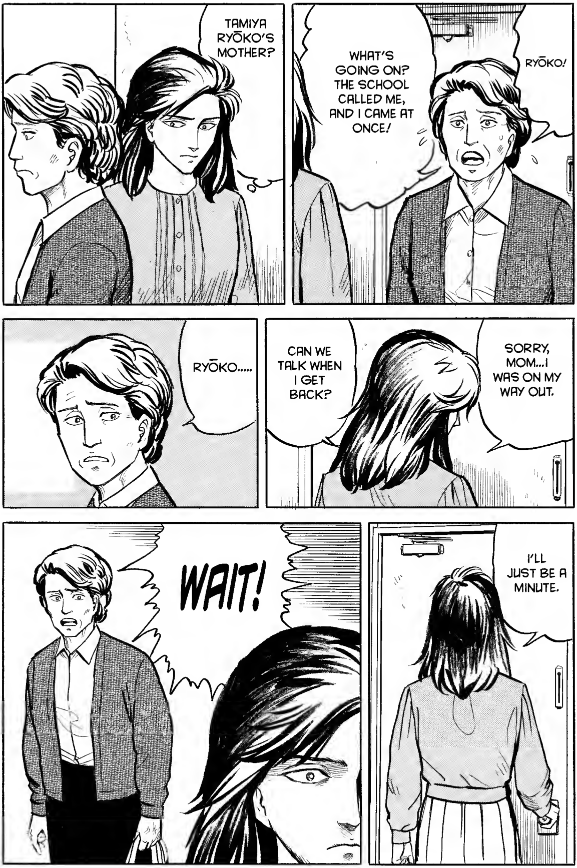
"The word 'nature' can mean many things. In the narrowest sense of the word, then, artificial and natural are opposites. The nature we humans are trying to protect fits that narrow definition. But in the broader sense of the word, humans are part of nature. Even if we become arrogant, pollute and destroy the world, that is all part of nature.

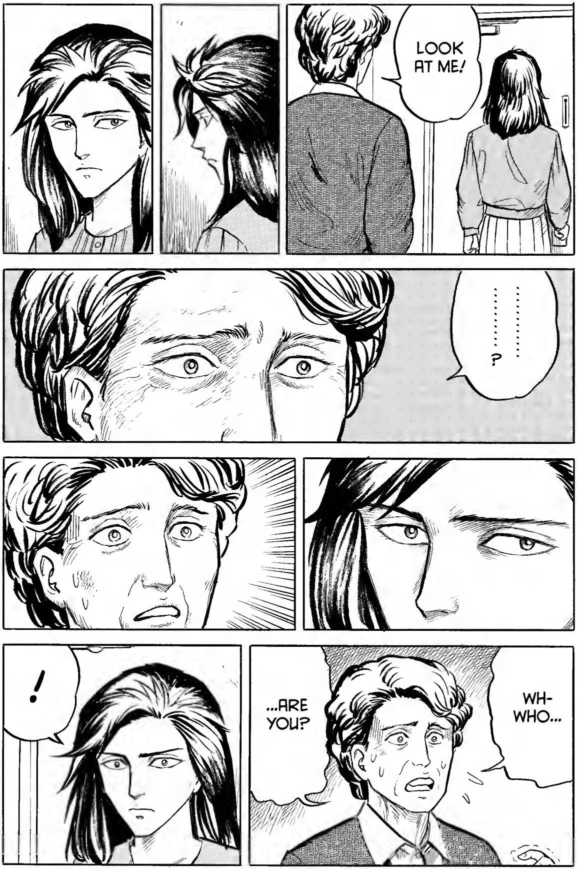
"All we humans can do is protect nature as we would ourselves." (Hitoshi Iwaaki)

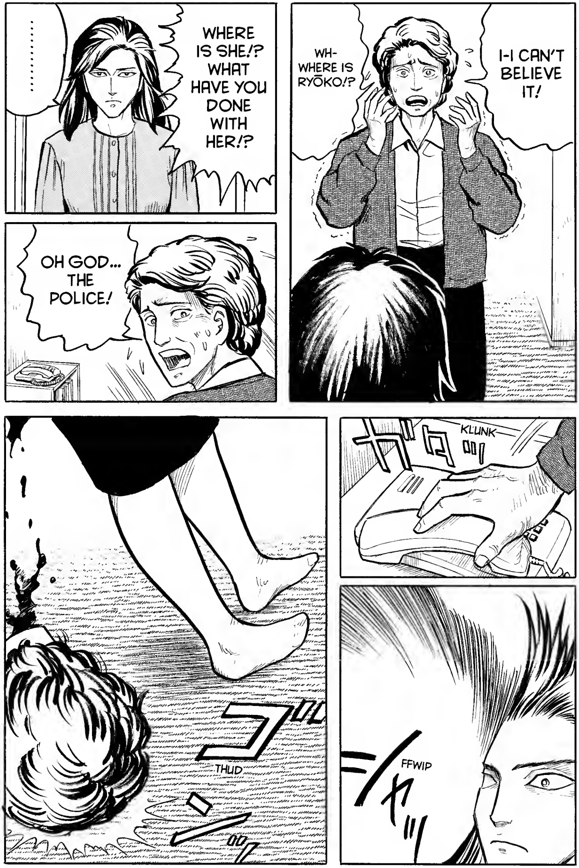
(From *Afternoon*, December 1991)

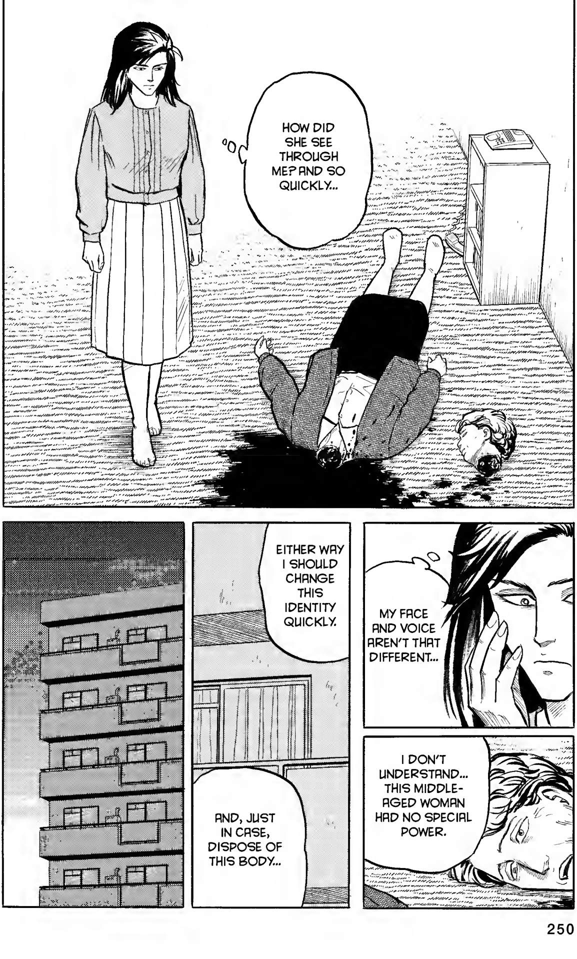
CHAPTER 9: MOTHER

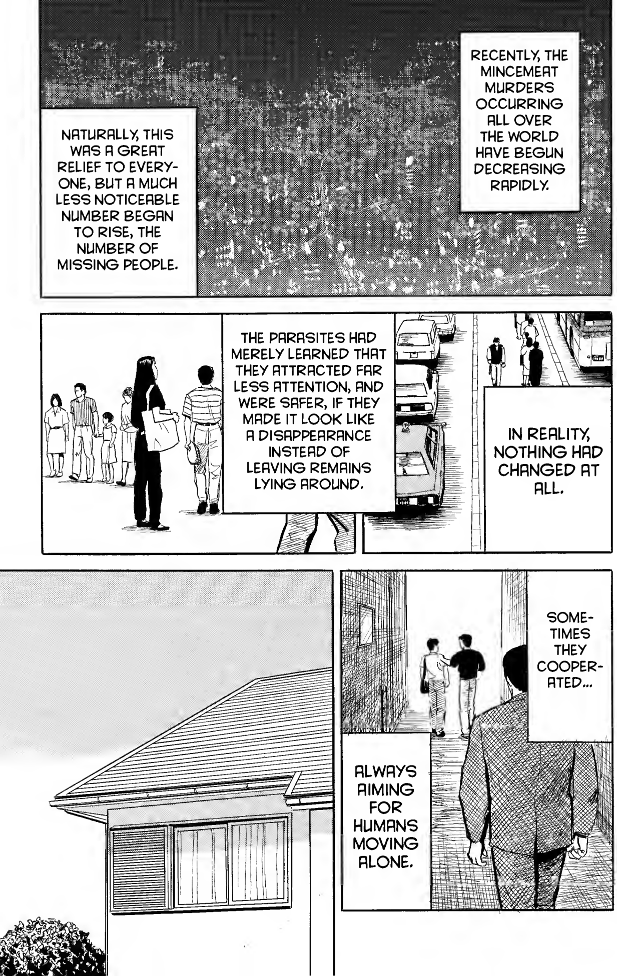

ピンポーン
DING DONG
田宮
ピンポーン
DING DONG
ガチャ..
CLICK

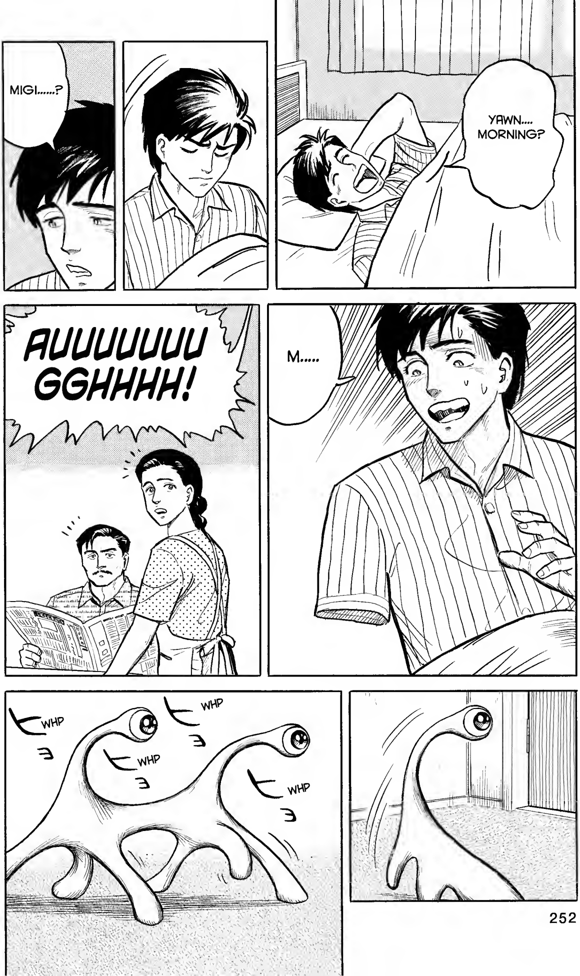

RYŌKO!
WHAT'S GOING ON? THE SCHOOL CALLED ME, AND I CAME AT ONCE!
TAMIYA RYŌKO'S MOTHER?
SORRY, MOM...I WAS ON MY WAY OUT.
CAN WE TALK WHEN I GET BACK?
RYŌKO.....
I'LL JUST BE A MINUTE.
WAIT!

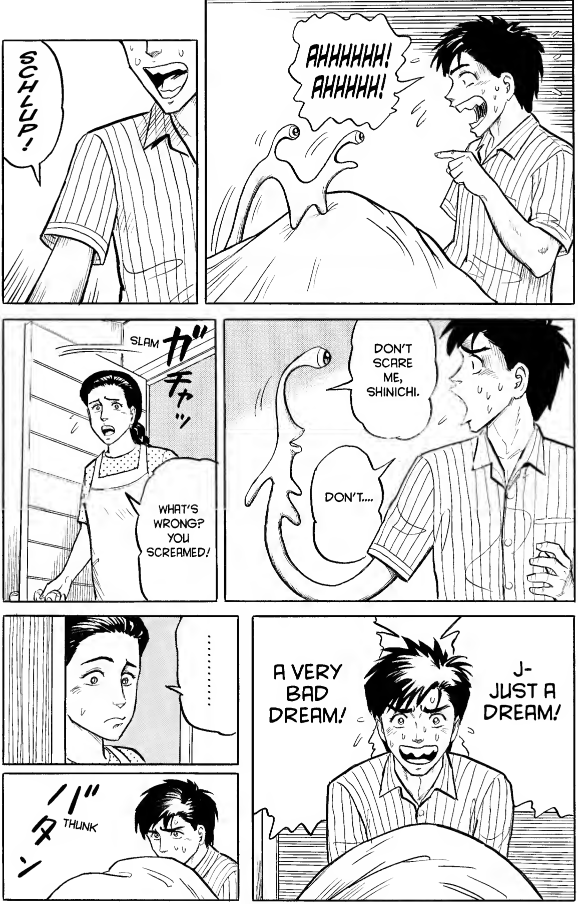

LOOK AT ME!
......?
!
WH- WHO...
...ARE YOU?

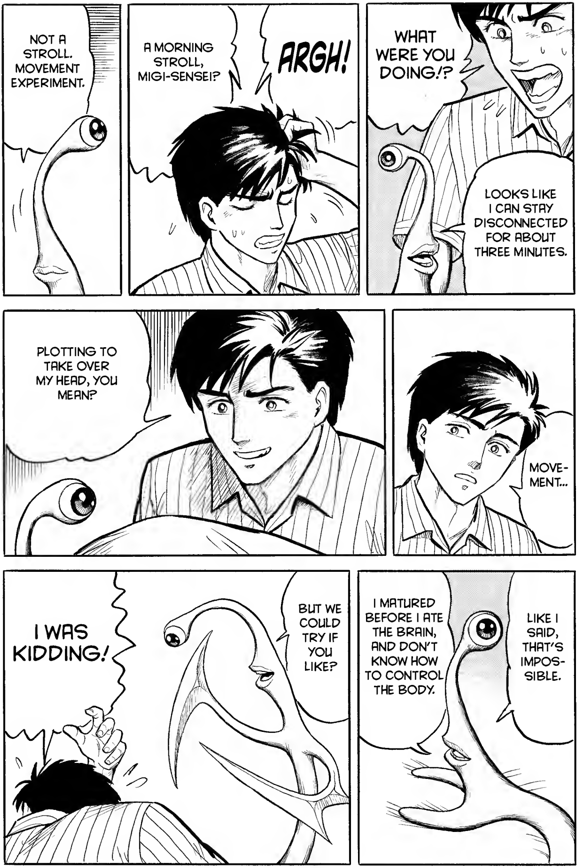

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WH- WHERE IS RYŌKO!?
WHERE IS SHE!? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER!?
……
OH GOD... THE POLICE!
ガタッ
KLUNK
FFWIP
THUD

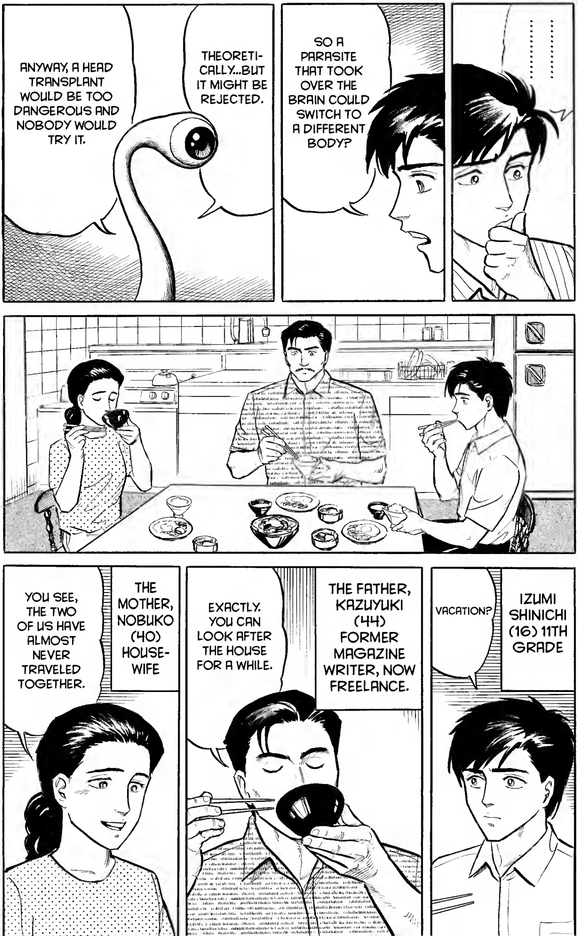

HOW DID SHE SEE THROUGH ME? AND SO QUICKLY...
MY FACE AND VOICE AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... THIS MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN HAD NO SPECIAL POWER.
EITHER WAY I SHOULD CHANGE THIS IDENTITY QUICKLY.
AND, JUST IN CASE, DISPOSE OF THIS BODY...

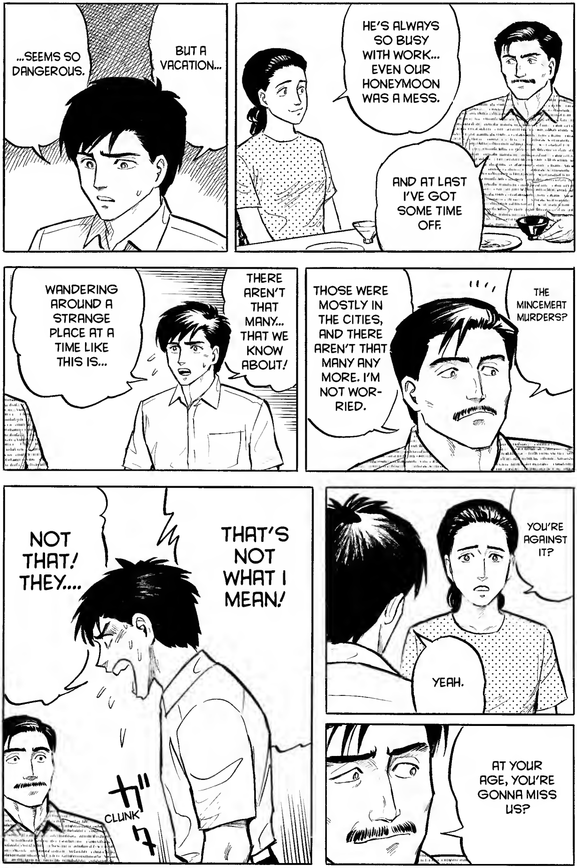

RECENTLY, THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS OCCURRING ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE BEGUN DECREASING RAPIDLY.
NATURALLY, THIS WAS A GREAT RELIEF TO EVERYONE, BUT A MUCH LESS NOTICEABLE NUMBER BEGAN TO RISE, THE NUMBER OF MISSING PEOPLE.
IN REALITY, NOTHING HAD CHANGED AT ALL.
THE PARASITES HAD MERELY LEARNED THAT THEY ATTRACTED FAR LESS ATTENTION, AND WERE SAFER, IF THEY MADE IT LOOK LIKE A DISAPPEARANCE INSTEAD OF LEAVING REMAINS LYING AROUND.
SOMETIMES THEY COOPERATED...
ALWAYS AIMING FOR HUMANS MOVING ALONE.

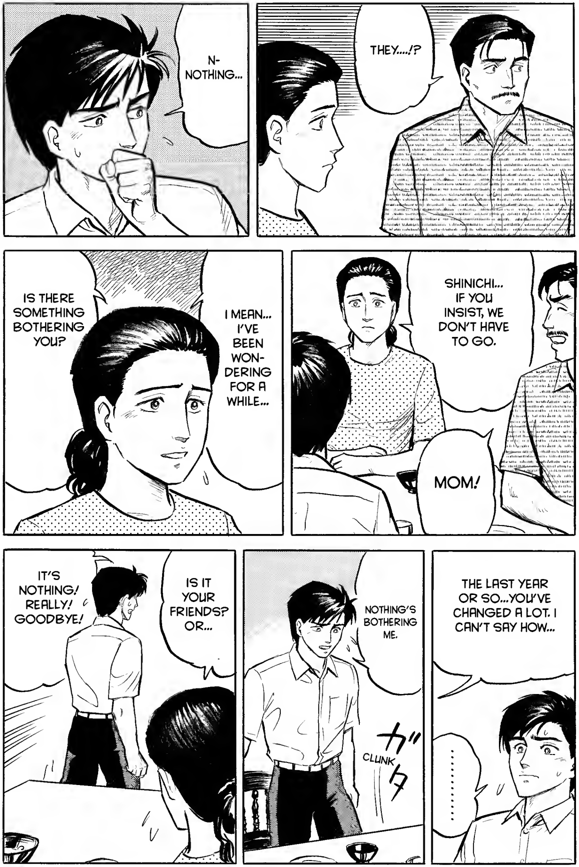

YAWN.... MORNING?
MIGI......?
M.....
AUUUUUUU GGHHHH!
WHP
WHP
WHP
WHP

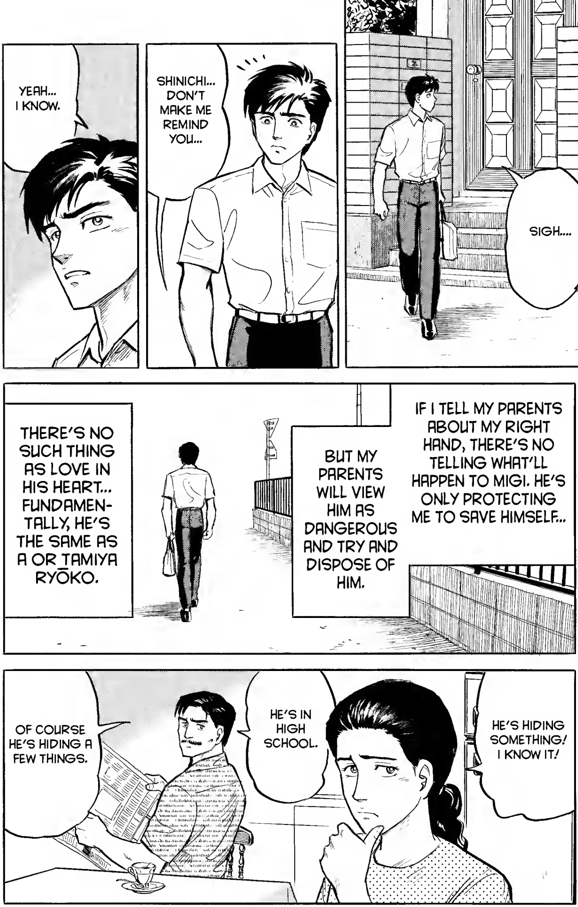

AHHHHHH! AHHHHH!
SCHLUP!
DON'T SCARE ME, SHINICHI.
DON'T....
SLAM ガチャッ
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SCREAMED!
J- JUST A DREAM!
A VERY BAD DREAM!
......
バタン THUNK

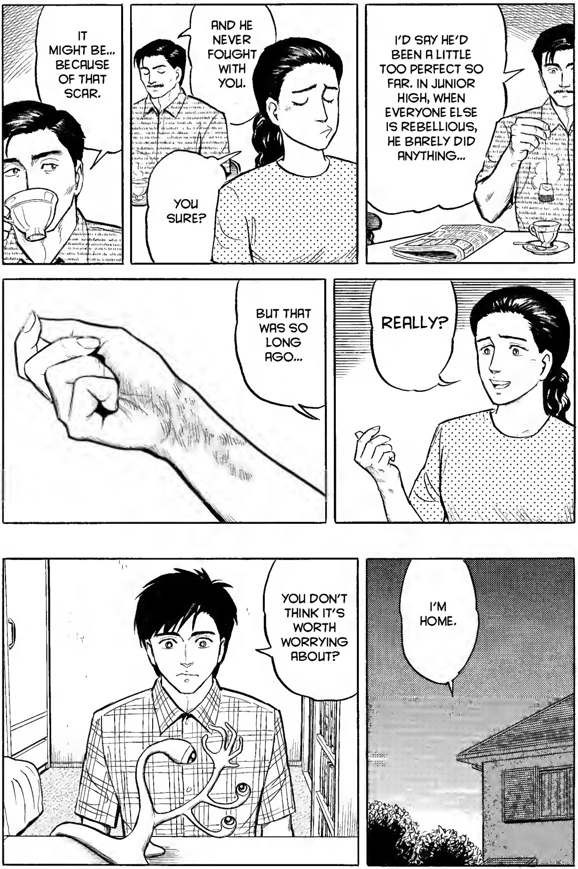

WHAT WERE YOU DOING!?
LOOKS LIKE I CAN STAY DISCONNECTED FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES.
ARGH!
A MORNING STROLL, MIGI-SENSEI?
NOT A STROLL. MOVEMENT EXPERIMENT.
MOVEMENT...
PLOTTING TO TAKE OVER MY HEAD, YOU MEAN?
LIKE I SAID, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I MATURED BEFORE I ATE THE BRAIN, AND DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL THE BODY.
BUT WE COULD TRY IF YOU LIKE?
I WAS KIDDING!

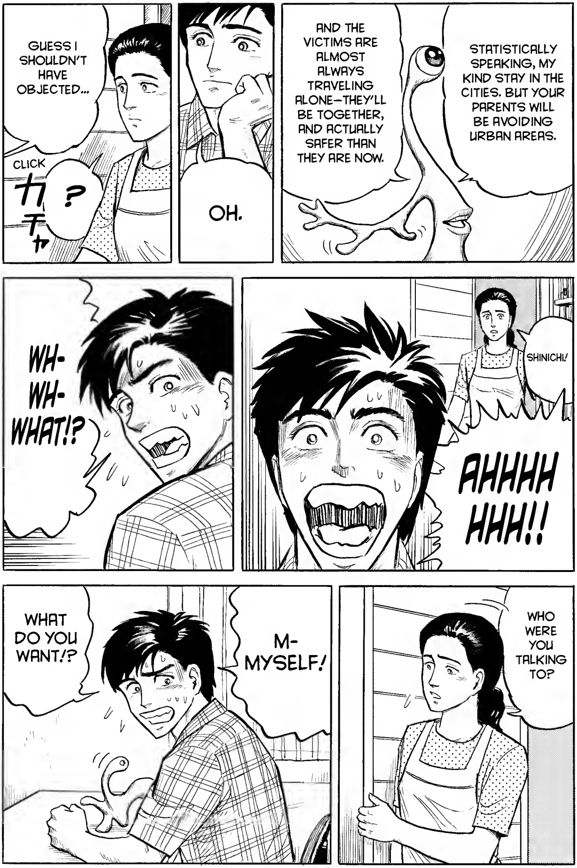

……
SO A PARASITE THAT TOOK OVER THE BRAIN COULD SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT BODY?
THEORETICALLY...BUT IT MIGHT BE REJECTED.
ANYWAY, A HEAD TRANSPLANT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS AND NOBODY WOULD TRY IT.
IZUMI SHINICHI (16) 11TH GRADE
VACATION?
THE FATHER, KAZUYUKI (44) FORMER MAGAZINE WRITER, NOW FREELANCE.
EXACTLY. YOU CAN LOOK AFTER THE HOUSE FOR A WHILE.
THE MOTHER, NOBUKO (40) HOUSEWIFE
YOU SEE, THE TWO OF US HAVE ALMOST NEVER TRAVELED TOGETHER.

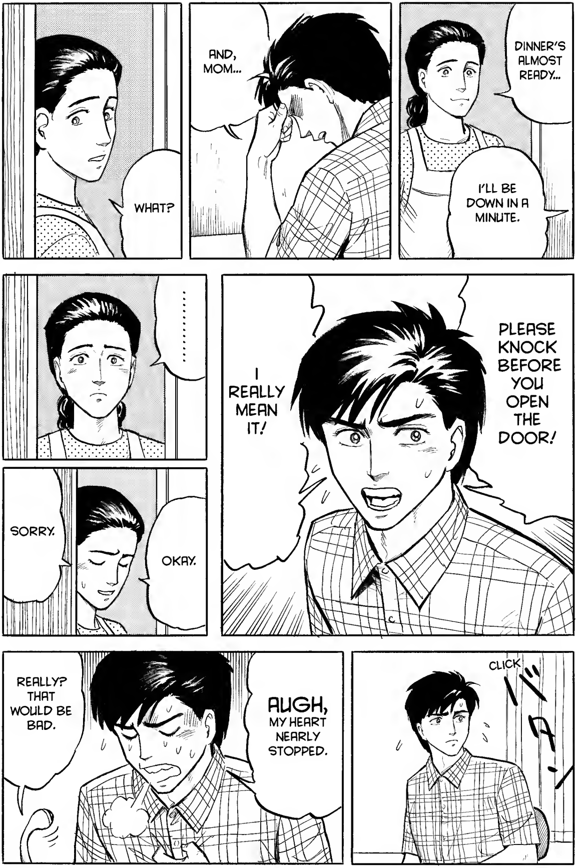

HE'S ALWAYS SO BUSY WITH WORK... EVEN OUR HONEYMOON WAS A MESS.
AND AT LAST I'VE GOT SOME TIME OFF.
BUT A VACATION...
...SEEMS SO DANGEROUS.
THE MINCEMEAT MURDERS?
THOSE WERE MOSTLY IN THE CITIES, AND THERE AREN'T THAT MANY ANY MORE. I'M NOT WORRIED.
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY... THAT WE KNOW ABOUT!
WANDERING AROUND A STRANGE PLACE AT A TIME LIKE THIS IS...
YOU'RE AGAINST IT?
YEAH.
AT YOUR AGE, YOU'RE GONNA MISS US?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
NOT THAT! THEY....
ガッ
CLUNK

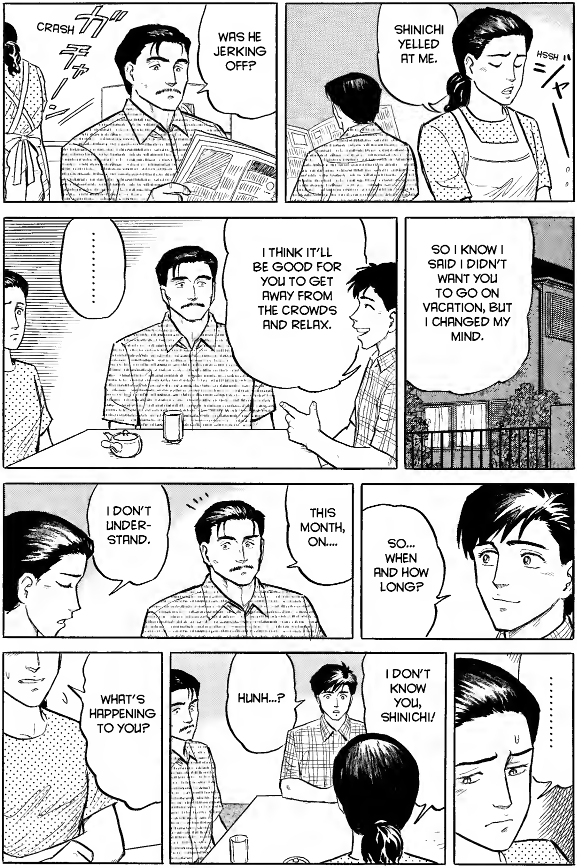

THEY....!?
N- NOTHING...
SHINICHI... IF YOU INSIST, WE DON'T HAVE TO GO.
MOM!
I MEAN... I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR A WHILE...
IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
THE LAST YEAR OR SO...YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT. I CAN'T SAY HOW...
......
NOTHING'S BOTHERING ME.
ガタ
CLUNK
IS IT YOUR FRIENDS? OR...
IT'S NOTHING! REALLY! GOODBYE!

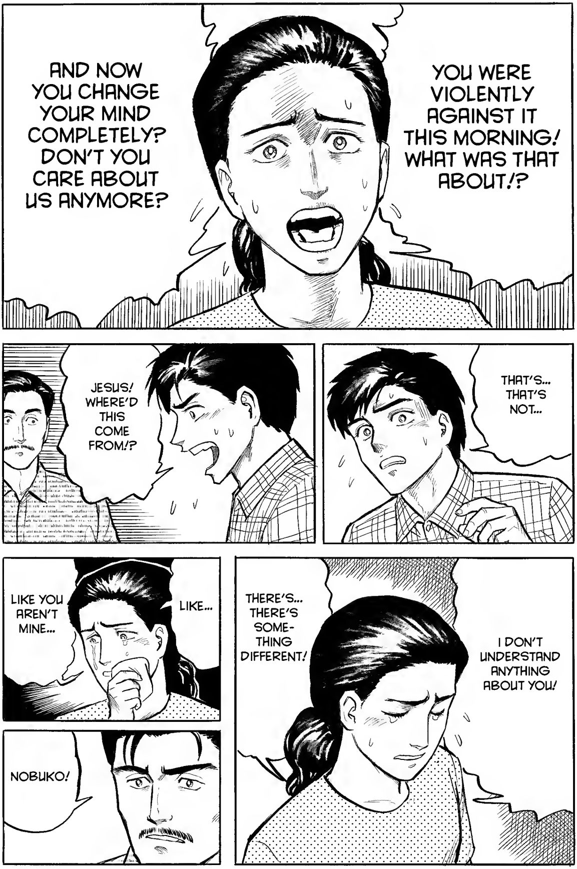

SIGH....
SHINICHI... DON'T MAKE ME REMIND YOU...
YEAH... I KNOW.
IF I TELL MY PARENTS ABOUT MY RIGHT HAND, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO MIGI. HE'S ONLY PROTECTING ME TO SAVE HIMSELF...
BUT MY PARENTS WILL VIEW HIM AS DANGEROUS AND TRY AND DISPOSE OF HIM.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS LOVE IN HIS HEART... FUNDAMENTALLY, HE'S THE SAME AS A OR TAMIYA RYŌKO.
HE'S HIDING SOMETHING! I KNOW IT!
HE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL.
OF COURSE HE'S HIDING A FEW THINGS.

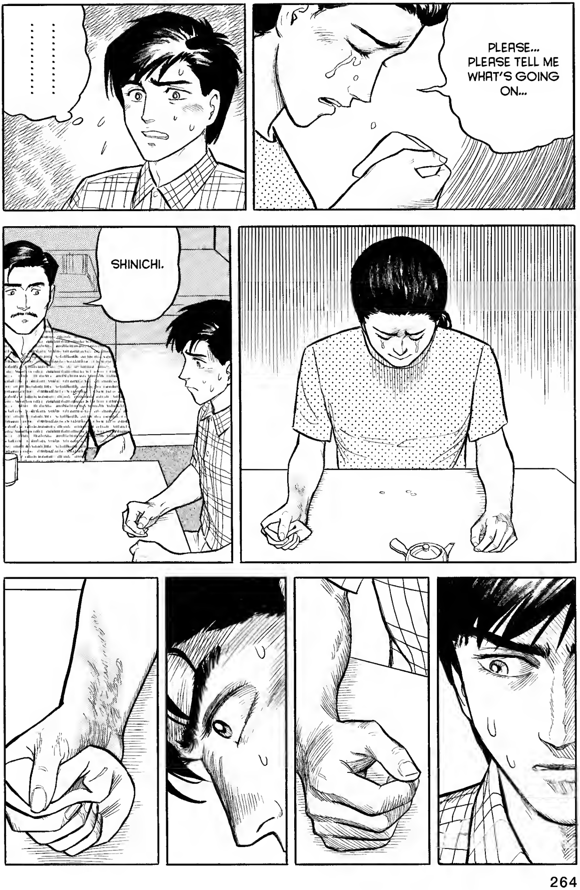

I'D SAY HE'D BEEN A LITTLE TOO PERFECT SO FAR. IN JUNIOR HIGH, WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS REBELLIOUS, HE BARELY DID ANYTHING...
AND HE NEVER FOUGHT WITH YOU.
YOU SURE?
IT MIGHT BE... BECAUSE OF THAT SCAR.
REALLY?
BUT THAT WAS SO LONG AGO...
I'M HOME.
YOU DON'T THINK IT'S WORTH WORRYING ABOUT?

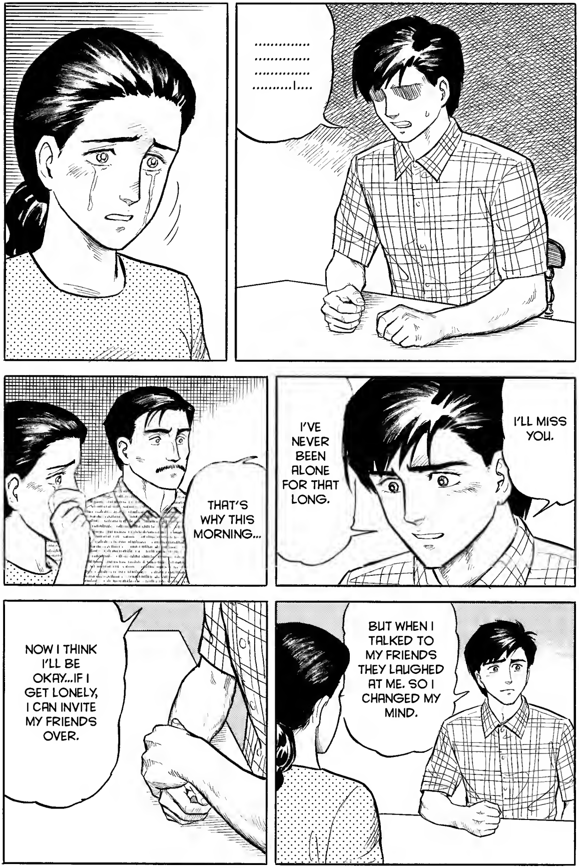

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING, MY KIND STAY IN THE CITIES. BUT YOUR PARENTS WILL BE AVOIDING URBAN AREAS.
AND THE VICTIMS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS TRAVELING ALONE—THEY'LL BE TOGETHER, AND ACTUALLY SAFER THAN THEY ARE NOW.
OH.
GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE OBJECTED...
CLICK
カチャ
?
SHINICHI!
AHHHHHHH!!
WH-WH-WHAT!?
WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO?
M-MYSELF!
WHAT DO YOU WANT!?

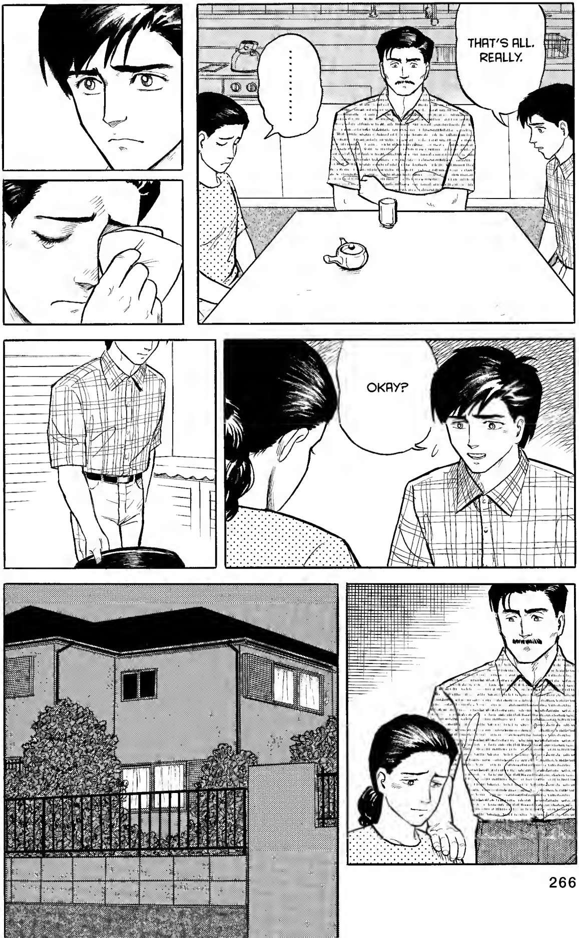

DINNER'S ALMOST READY...
I'LL BE DOWN IN A MINUTE.
AND, MOM...
WHAT?
PLEASE KNOCK BEFORE YOU OPEN THE DOOR!
I REALLY MEAN IT!
....
OKAY.
SORRY.
CLICK
バタ
AUGH, MY HEART NEARLY STOPPED.
REALLY? THAT WOULD BE BAD.

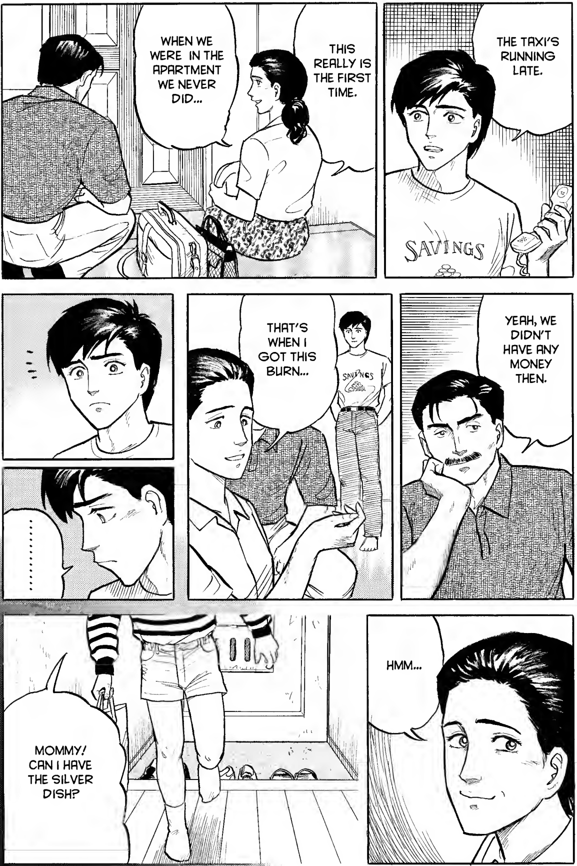

HSSH
SHINICHI YELLED AT ME.
CRASH
WAS HE JERKING OFF?
SO I KNOW I SAID I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GO ON VACATION, BUT I CHANGED MY MIND.
I THINK IT'LL BE GOOD FOR YOU TO GET AWAY FROM THE CROWDS AND RELAX.
....
SO... WHEN AND HOW LONG?
THIS MONTH, ON....
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
....
I DON'T KNOW YOU, SHINICHI!
HUNH...?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?

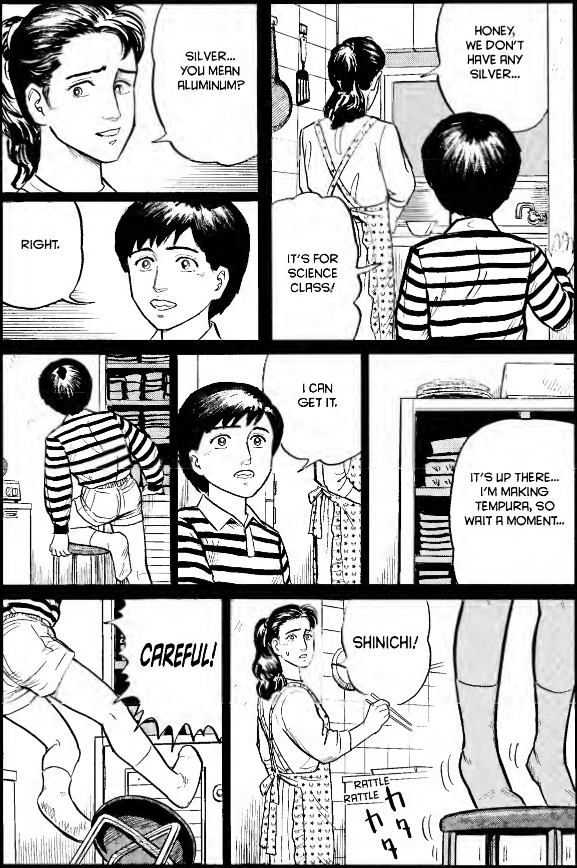

YOU WERE VIOLENTLY AGAINST IT THIS MORNING! WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT!?
AND NOW YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND COMPLETELY? DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT US ANYMORE?
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT...
JESUS! WHERE'D THIS COME FROM!?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT YOU!
THERE'S... THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
LIKE...
LIKE YOU AREN'T MINE...
NOBUKO!

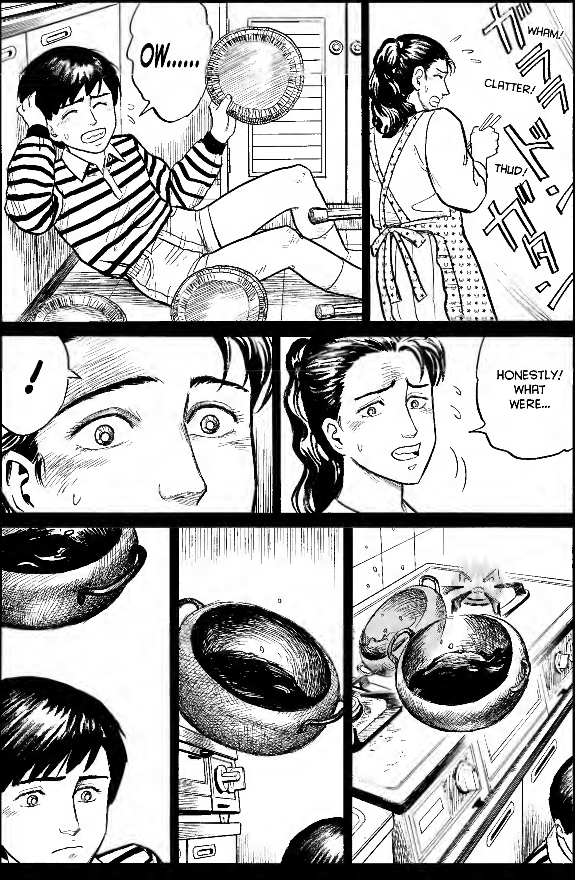

PLEASE... PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON...
......
SHINICHI.

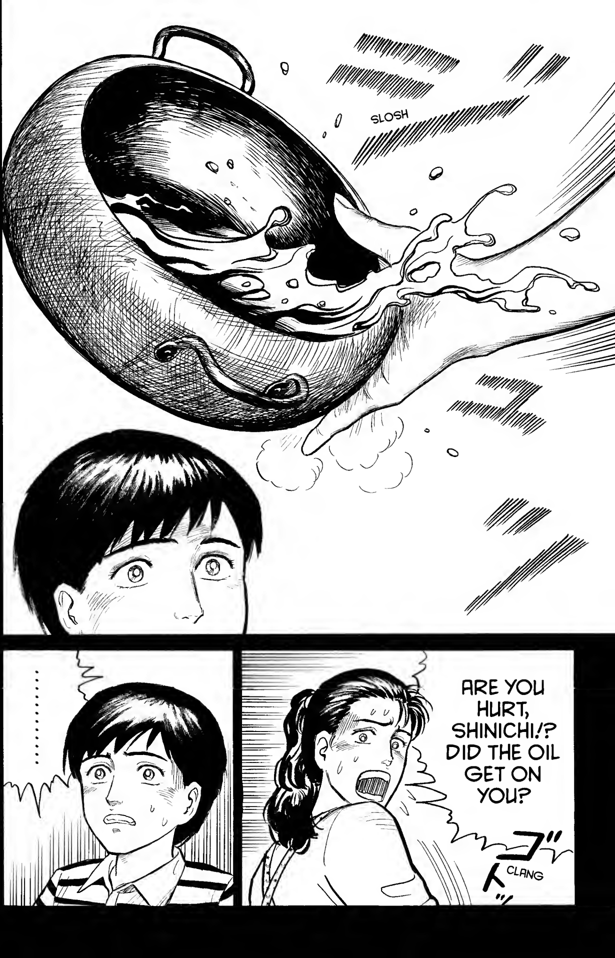

....
....
....
..........I....
I'LL MISS YOU.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ALONE FOR THAT LONG.
THAT'S WHY THIS MORNING...
BUT WHEN I TALKED TO MY FRIENDS THEY LAUGHED AT ME. SO I CHANGED MY MIND.
NOW I THINK I'LL BE OKAY...IF I GET LONELY, I CAN INVITE MY FRIENDS OVER.

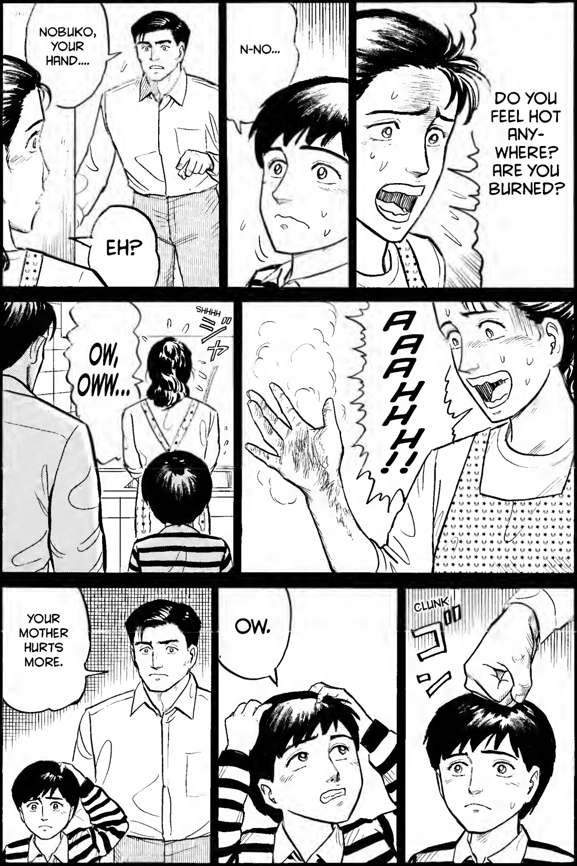

……
THAT'S ALL. REALLY.
OKAY?

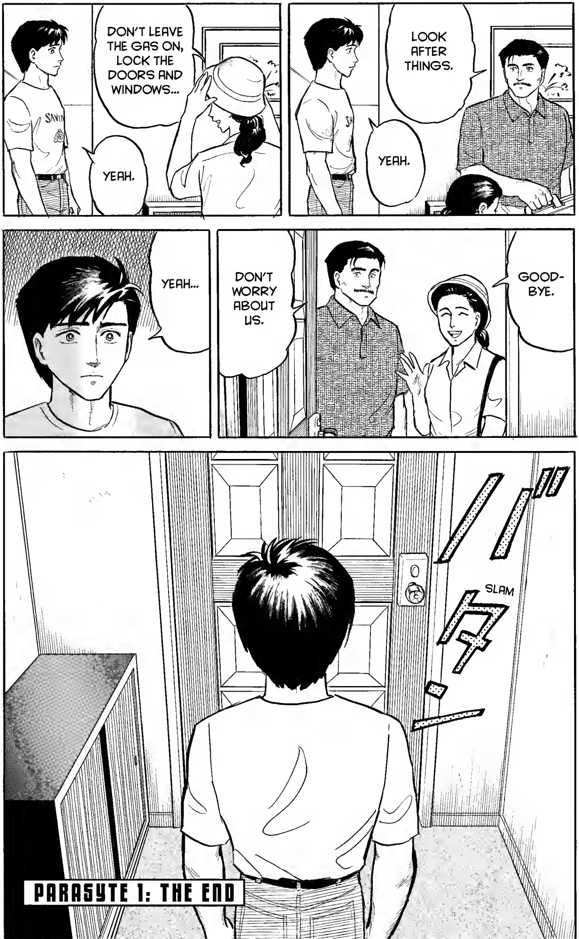

THE TAXI'S RUNNING LATE.
SAVINGS
THIS REALLY IS THE FIRST TIME.
WHEN WE WERE IN THE APARTMENT WE NEVER DID...
YEAH, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY THEN.
THAT'S WHEN I GOT THIS BURN...
SAVINGS
......
HMM...
MOMMY! CAN I HAVE THE SILVER DISH?


HONEY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY SILVER...
IT'S FOR SCIENCE CLASS!
SILVER... YOU MEAN ALUMINUM?
RIGHT.
IT'S UP THERE... I'M MAKING TEMPURA, SO WAIT A MOMENT...
I CAN GET IT.
SHINICHI!
RATTLE RATTLE
カタカタ
CAREFUL!


ガララ
WHAM!
CLATTER!
ドッ
THUD!
ガタッ
OW......
HONESTLY! WHAT WERE...
!


SLOSH
ARE YOU HURT, SHINICHI!? DID THE OIL GET ON YOU?
ゴトッ
CLANG
……

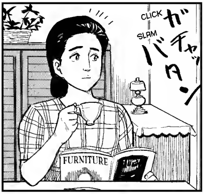

DO YOU FEEL HOT ANYWHERE? ARE YOU BURNED?
N-NO...
NOBUKO, YOUR HAND....
EH?
AAAHHH!!
SHHHH
シャ
OW, OWW...
CLUNK
ゴン
OW.
YOUR MOTHER HURTS MORE.


DON'T LEAVE THE GAS ON, LOCK THE DOORS AND WINDOWS...
YEAH.
LOOK AFTER THINGS.
YEAH.
YEAH...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.
GOOD-BYE.
バタン
SLAM

PARASYTE 1: THE END

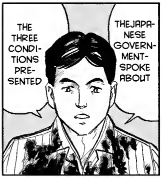
TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.


ガチャッ
CLICK
バタン
SLAM
FURNITURE

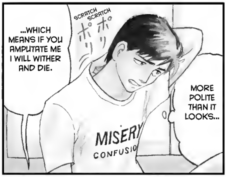
Catalog, page 38

Shinichi's mother is reading a furniture catalog here. Mail-order furniture is much more popular in Japan than in America, and most people order all their furniture from catalogs.


THEJAPANESE GOVERNMENTSPOKE ABOUT
THE THREE CONDITIONS PRESENTED

Run-together text, page 42

When the parasite repeats the news in the original Japanese, he doesn't use any kanji characters. The implication is that he is mouthing the sounds of the language without registering their meaning.

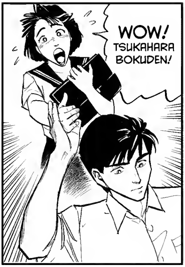

SCRATCH SCRATCH
ポリポリ
MORE POLITE THAN IT LOOKS...
...WHICH MEANS IF YOU AMPUTATE ME I WILL WITHER AND DIE.
MISERY
CONFUSIO

More polite than it looks, page 46

I've replaced the original line here. Migi's choice of personal pronouns has shifted from the rough, common *ore* to the polite, formal *watashi*. In the original Japanese, Shinichi comments that the polite *watashi* doesn't match Migi's face.

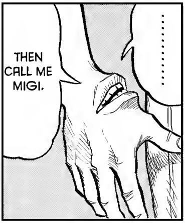
Tsukahara Bokuden, page 56

Tsukahara Bokuden (name given in Japanese order, 1489–1571) was a famed swordsman of the Sengoku Warring States Period.


WOW! TSUKAHARA BOKUDEN!

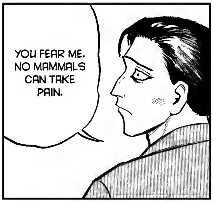
Migi, page 66

The word *migi* means "right." *Parasyte* was first published in English by TokyoPop in a now-out-of-print edition that "flipped" the original Japanese artwork so that it would read left to right—which meant that the parasite had to be named "Lefty"! This Del Rey reissue restores the original orientation, but even now that Migi is again truly on the right side, "Righty" just doesn't sound right!



Killer's aura, page 117

The title of this chapter, "Satsuki," is a great word that we just don't have in English. Just before a human kills another, they emit *satsuki,* which skilled fighters can sense. Later in the chapter this is shown as an insect hovering behind them. I've translated this phrase as "killer's aura."

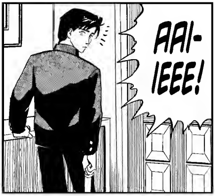

YOU FEAR ME. NO MAMMALS CAN TAKE PAIN.

Pain, pages 124, 141, 214

Both Migi and the lion killer use the same expression, *itagariya,* for someone who feels pain easily.

Recap, page 143

Parasyte began serialization in *Morning* (possibly *Morning Special*) magazine and changed to *Afternoon* magazine a few issues later, presumably with this issue. Hence the opening recap.

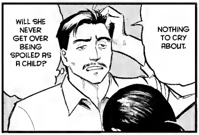


Roaches, page 152

Japanese roaches are really, really big. They also fly. When you try to kill them, they fly right into your face, so you scream and fall over and give them time to get away. Very effective technique.

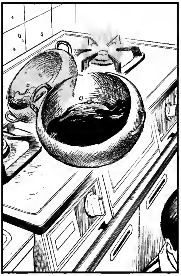
Spoiled, page 153

The original Japanese line—*ojou-sama sodachi*—implies that Mom was raised by upper-class parents, hence her fear of roaches. It also implies that even though she's a mother now, she still hasn't fully adjusted to her new life.


NOTHING TO CRY ABOUT.
WILL SHE NEVER GET OVER BEING SPOILED AS A CHILD?

Tempura oil, page 269

That isn't water, but boiling oil. Far more dangerous. Tempura is breaded and deep-fried vegetables and shrimp, usually more delicate than greasy. Try it sometime!



TOMARE!

STOP

YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!

MANGA IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TYPE OF READING EXPERIENCE.

TO START AT THE BEGINNING, GO TO THE END!

THAT'S RIGHT!

AUTHENTIC MANGA IS READ THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WAY—FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF HOW AMERICAN BOOKS ARE READ. IT'S EASY TO FOLLOW: JUST GO TO THE OTHER END OF THE BOOK, AND READ EACH PAGE—AND EACH PANEL—FROM RIGHT SIDE TO LEFT SIDE, STARTING AT THE TOP RIGHT. NOW YOU'RE EXPERIENCING MANGA AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE.

***Parasyte* volume 1**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY AND ART BY HITOSHI IWAAKI

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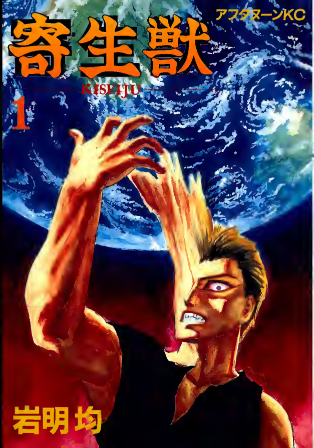

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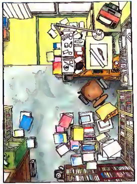
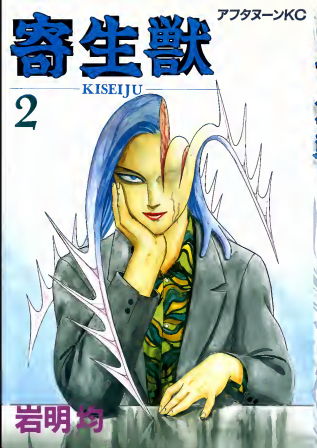


作者として、今までどちらかというと日常的な出来事をテーマに「読んで何かを考えさせる」ふうな物語を多く描いてきたような気がするが、今回少し気分をかえて「考えさせる」より「感じさせる」、つまり「読んで退屈しない」をまず第一に心がけて描いてみた。



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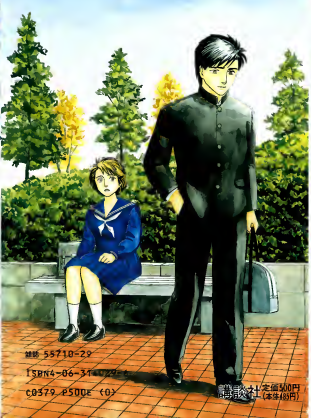

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頭で思いうかべたものを、そのまま絵にするよりは、写真を見ながらの方が上手っぽく描ける。ところが、実際に存在しないものをリアルに描くのはむずかしい。なるべく写真を見て描くことと、なるべく何も見ずに描くことの両方をやっていれば、とんでもなくシュールなものでも、写実的に描けるようになるんじゃないかな、と思ったりする。

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『悪魔』というのを本で調べたが……
いちばんそれに近い生物は
やはり人間だと思うぞ……

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“この「種」を
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